THE HUMAN TORCH

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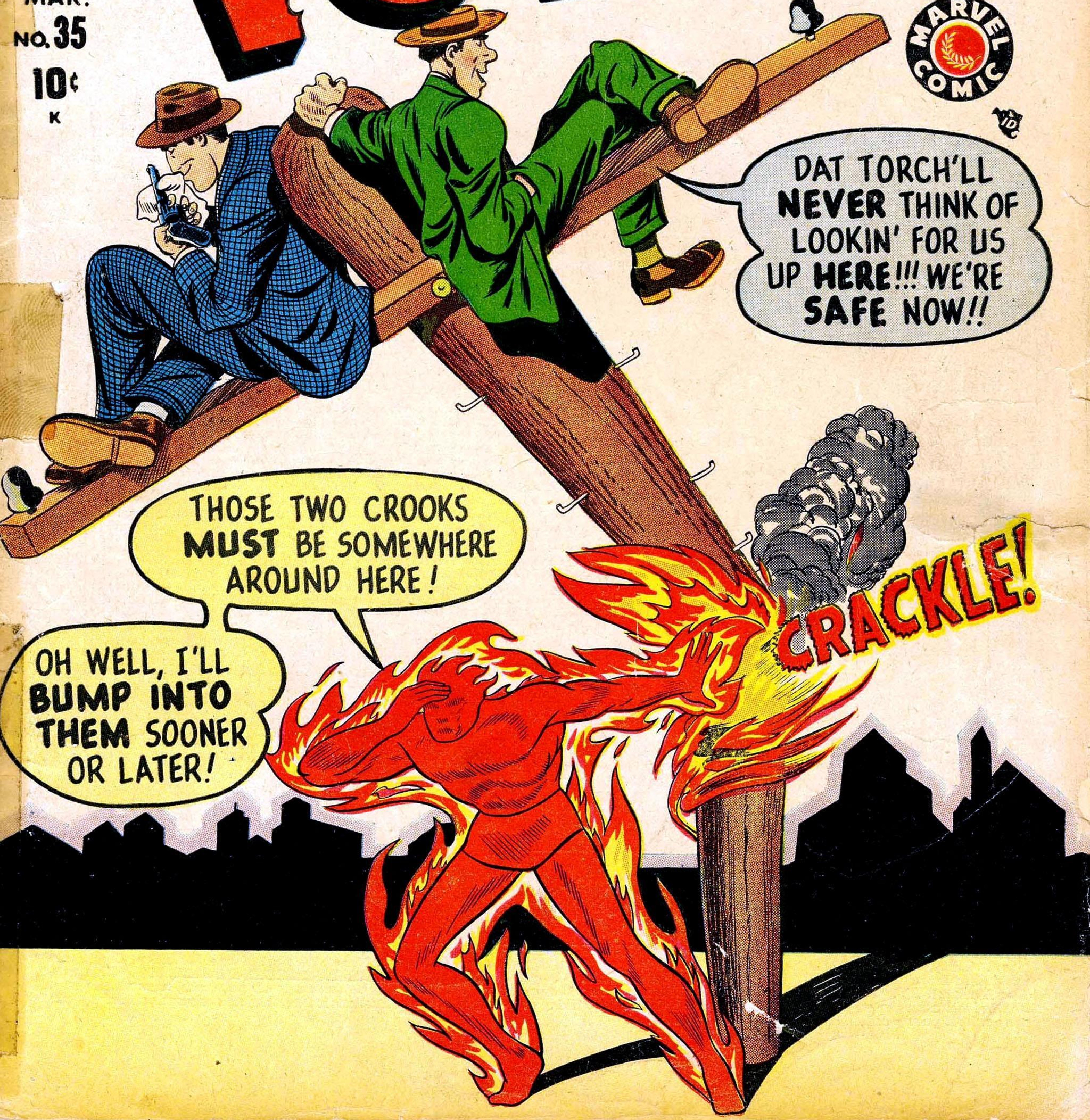
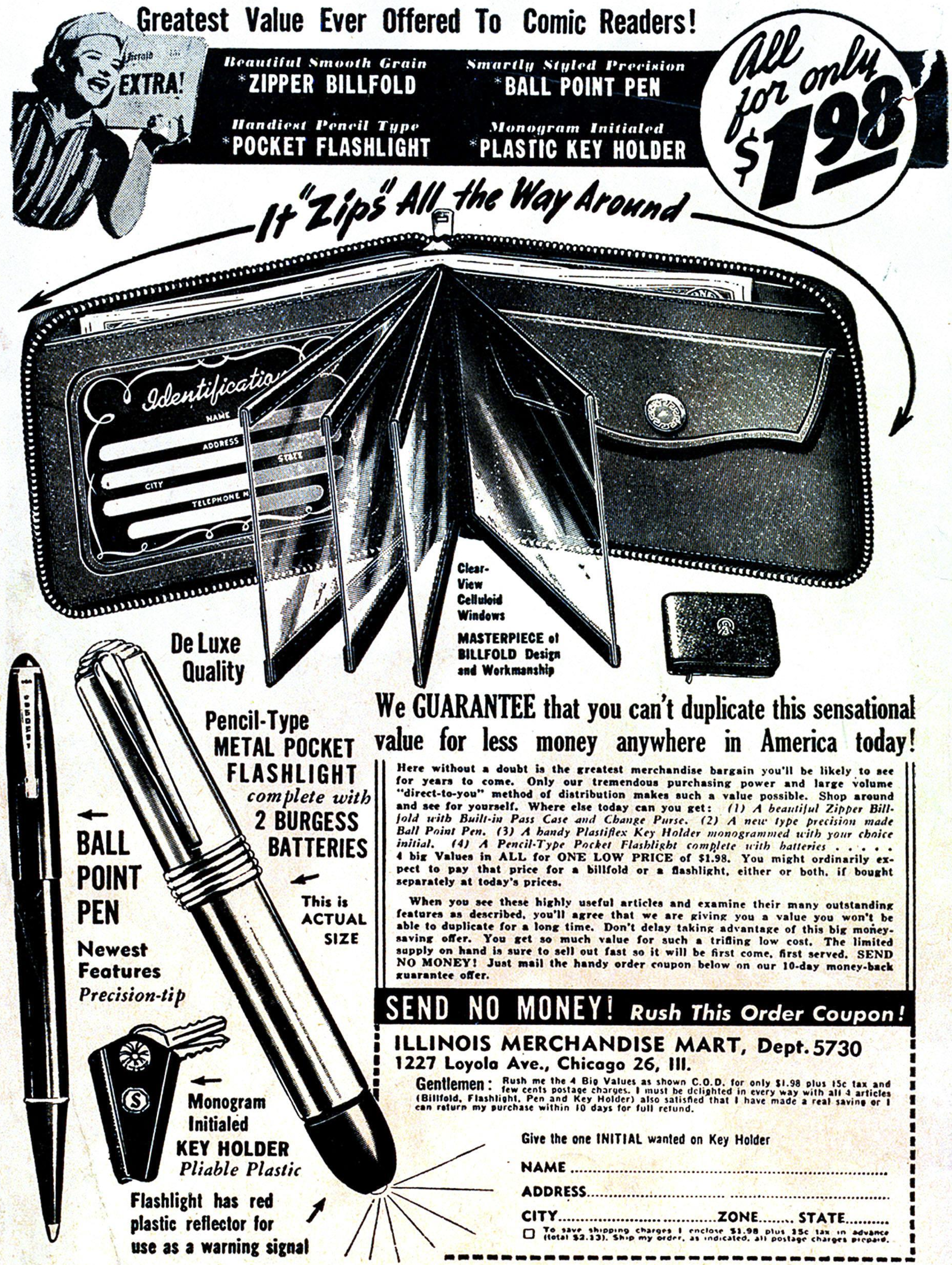
MARVEL COMIC


DAT TORCH'LL **NEVER** THINK OF LOOKIN' FOR US UP **HERE**!!! WE'RE **SAFE** NOW!!
THOSE TWO CROOKS **MUST** BE SOMEWHERE AROUND HERE!
OH WELL, I'LL **BUMP INTO THEM** SOONER OR LATER!
CRACKLE!



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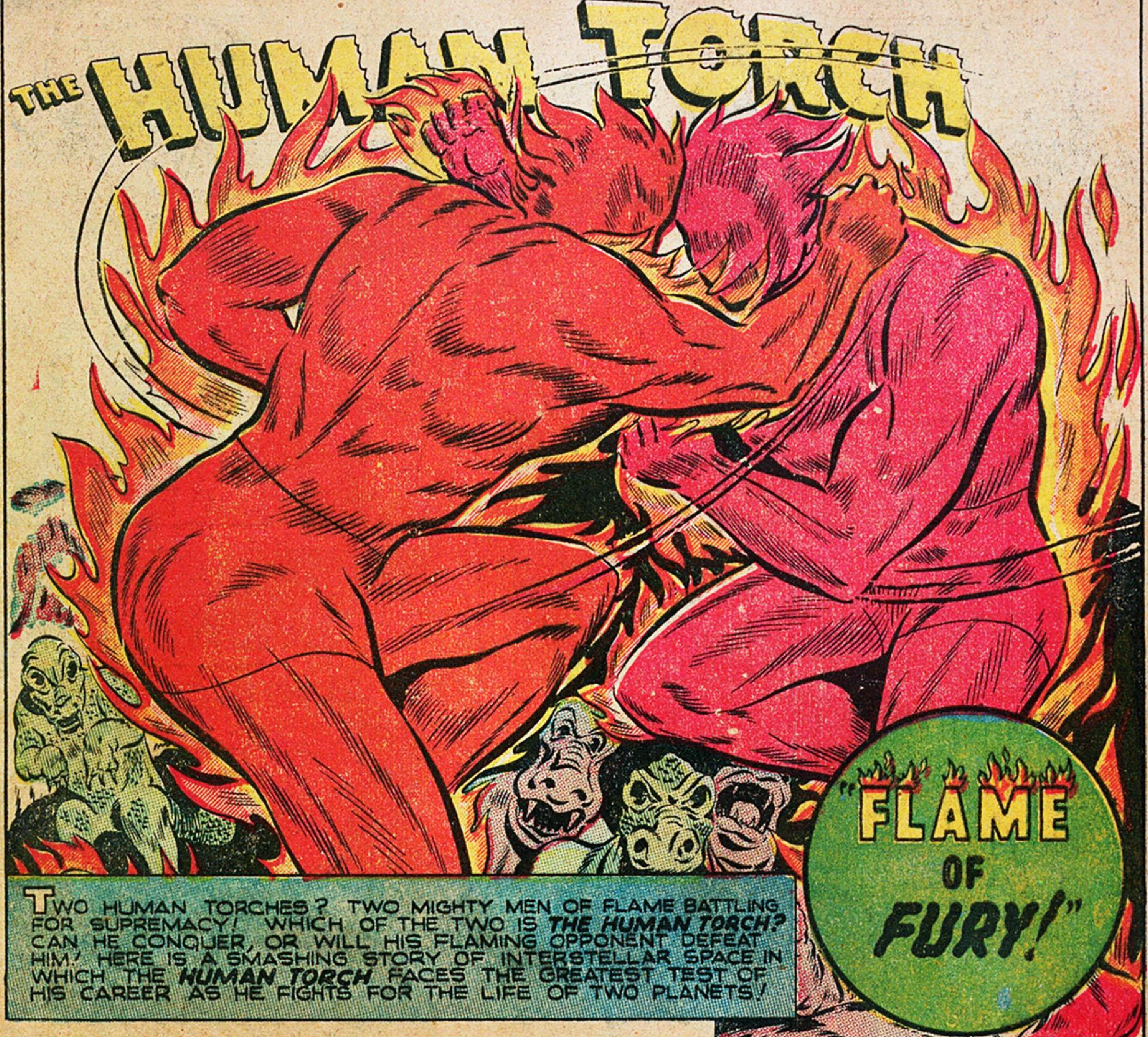
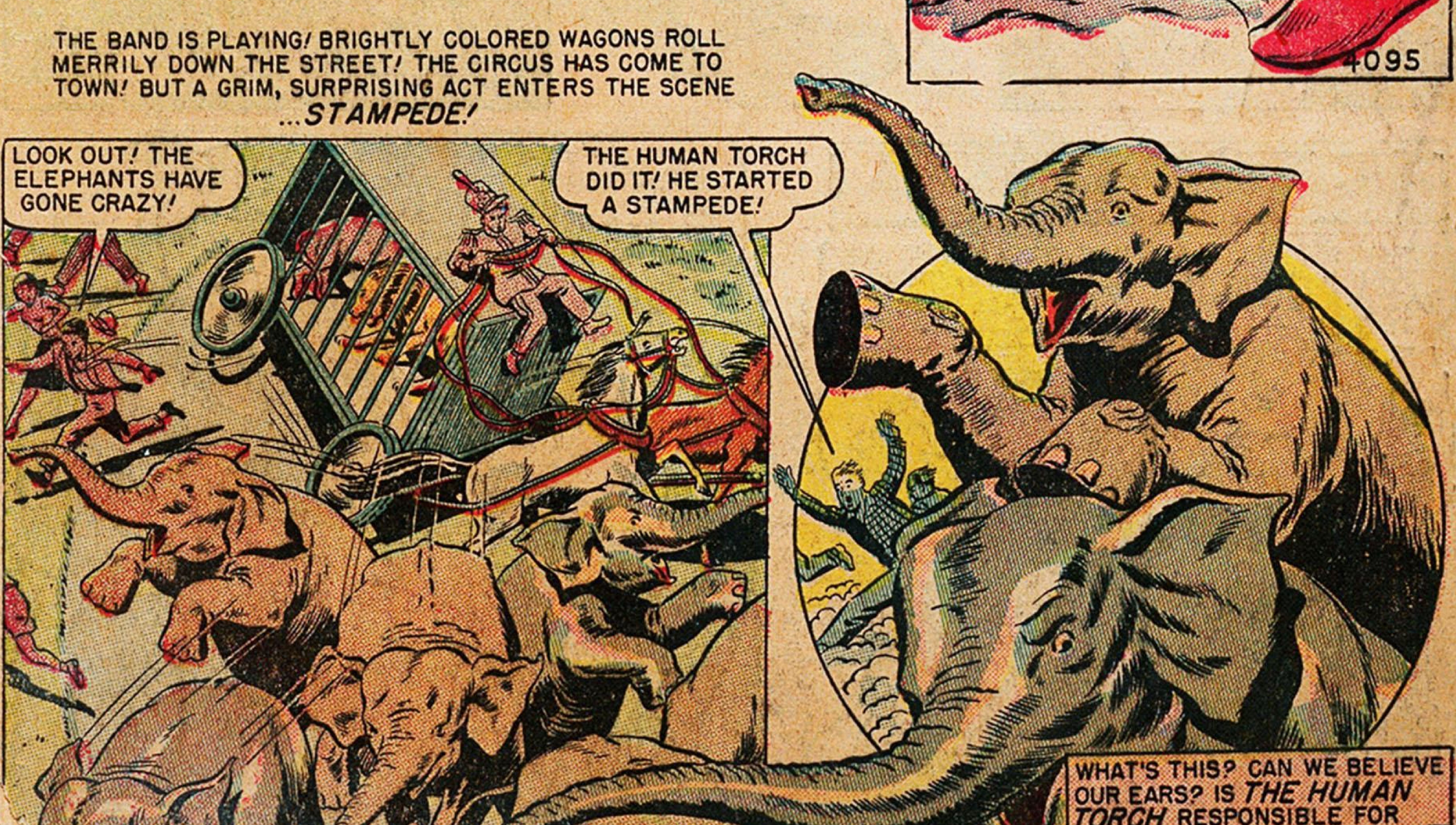
Editorial Consultant: **Jean Thompson, M.D., Psychiatrist, Child Guidance Bureau; Board of Education, New York City**


THE HUMAN TORCH
"FLAME OF FURY!"
TWO HUMAN TORCHES? TWO MIGHTY MEN OF FLAME BATTLING FOR SUPREMACY! WHICH OF THE TWO IS *THE HUMAN TORCH?* CAN HE CONQUER, OR WILL HIS FLAMING OPPONENT DEFEAT HIM! HERE IS A SMASHING STORY OF INTERSTELLAR SPACE IN WHICH THE *HUMAN TORCH* FACES THE GREATEST TEST OF HIS CAREER AS HE FIGHTS FOR THE LIFE OF TWO PLANETS!
4095

THE BAND IS PLAYING! BRIGHTLY COLORED WAGONS ROLL MERRILY DOWN THE STREET! THE CIRCUS HAS COME TO TOWN! BUT A GRIM, SURPRISING ACT ENTERS THE SCENE ...*STAMPEDE!*


LOOK OUT! THE ELEPHANTS HAVE GONE CRAZY!
THE HUMAN TORCH DID IT! HE STARTED A STAMPEDE!
WHAT'S THIS? CAN WE BELIEVE OUR EARS? IS *THE HUMAN TORCH* RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS? LET'S SEE...
1

WHA-WHAT HAPPENED? MY FLAME TURNED ON BY ITSELF! AND I CAN'T TURN IT OFF!
FOR IN THE MIDST OF THE CONFUSION IS... THE HUMAN TORCH... HIS FLAME WHIPPING UNCONTROLLABLY AROUND HIM... POWERLESS TO STOP THE HAVOC HE HIMSELF IS CREATING!
AT LAST, THE AMAZED FIREMEN SUBDUE THE FURIOUS FLAME!
IT'S GONE OUT! THE WATER PUT IT OUT!
IT'S LUCKY THIS HAPPENED WHILE WE WERE HERE! THIS HUMAN TORCH IS A MENACE!
CONFUSED AND DEPRESSED, THE TORCH LEAVES THE SCENE OF THE STAMPEDE! THEN, THAT EVENING...
THEY BLAME ME FOR IT! THEY SAY I'M A DANGER! B-BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S WRONG! I FEEL FUNNY... SO TIRED... SO SLEEPY...
HUMAN TORCH STARTS CIRCUS STAMPEDE
A STRANGE DROWSINESS OVERCOMES THE TORCH! HE SUCCUMBS... ONLY TO BE TORTURED WITH A FANTASTIC DREAM... ABOUT THE PLANET VENUS!
NO! NO! DON'T DO THAT! YOU'LL KILL THEM!
BUT IS THIS ONLY A DREAM... OR SOME NIGHTMARE OF REALITY?
IT'S THE FIEND OF FIRE! HE'LL KILL US ALL!
BOOM!
ZOOM!
CAN IT BE REAL? IS THE HUMAN TORCH REALLY BENT ON A PATH OF DESTRUCTION ON THIS PLANET, VENUS?
HE HAS SET FIRE TO OUR HARVESTS! CAN NO ONE STOP HIM? THE MAN OF FIRE HAS ATTACKED FROM ANOTHER PLANET! CANNOT WE STRIKE BACK THERE?
THE GREAT ALURA, OUR RULER, WILL DECIDE! SHE WILL VANQUISH THIS UNKNOWN FLAME WHICH PLAGUES US!
THE MAN OF FIRE IS ONE WHO IS KNOWN AS THE HUMAN TORCH! UNLESS HE IS STOPPED, WE WILL TURN OUR DISINTEGRATOR RAY ON THE EARTH AND BLAST IT FROM THE SOLAR SYSTEM! THAT IS MY FINAL WORD!

THEN, IN THE DREAM, IF IT IS A DREAM, THE HUMAN TORCH SEES AN EXTRAORDINARY BLAST OF LIGHT!
BOOM!
BRRR! WHAT A NIGHTMARE! AND THAT EXPLOSION... IT LOOKED LIKE THE END OF THE WORLD!
THEN, WITH A START, HE AWAKENS!
FIRST, MY FLAME WENT ON AT THE PARADE BY ITSELF...AND NOW THESE FRIGHTENING DREAMS! I'M GOING FOR A WALK! I'M AFRAID TO SLEEP AGAIN!
THERE HE IS! THERE'S THE TORCH! LET'S GO!
POLICE DEP'T. 226
IN A DAZE, SHAKEN BY THE REALITY OF HIS NIGHTMARE, THE TORCH WALKS THE DARK STREETS OF NIGHT! AND THEN...
GOT HIM! KEEP THAT FIRE EXTINGUISHER READY, JOE!
WHA-WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
TAKEN TO HEADQUARTERS, THE TORCH IS IN FOR THE SURPRISE OF HIS LIFE!
WHY HAVE I BEEN ARRESTED? I'VE DONE NOTHING BUT FIGHT CRIME!
LISTEN, TORCH, WE'VE RECEIVED A MESSAGE THROUGH INTERPLANETARY TELEVISION, FROM THE PLANET VENUS THAT UNLESS YOU'RE HALTED, THEY WILL DESTROY US, DISINTEGRATE THE EARTH!
YOU'VE DELIBERATELY SET FIRE TO VENUS' HARVESTS AND TERRORIZED THE ENTIRE PLANET! AND YOU CAN'T DENY IT! WHAT'S COME OVER YOU, TORCH?
I DON'T KNOW! I HAD THE STRANGEST DREAM WHEN I SLEPT! NOW IT SEEMS AS IF THE DREAM WERE REAL! BUT IT'S IMPOSSIBLE! I WAS NEVER ON VENUS!
THE OBSERVATORY JUST REPORTED A TREMENDOUS EXPLOSION OUT IN SPACE, AS IF A STAR HAD BLOWN UP! MAYBE THIS IS LINKED TO THE OTHER MESSAGE!
IT WAS AS I DREAMED! THERE WAS AN EXPLOSION, TOO! THE ONLY THING FOR ME TO DO IS TO GO TO VENUS AND FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENED! NOW'S MY CHANCE! FLAME ON!

"FLAME ON!", MIGHTY COMMAND OF THE POWER OF THE HUMAN TORCH! WITH A ROAR, HIS BODY BURSTS INTO FLAME! HE SOARS THROUGH THE BUILDING!
TELL THE PEOPLE OF VENUS I'M GOING TO FACE THEIR JUSTICE! I HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING WRONG!
COME BACK, TORCH! COME BACK HERE!
THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT, AND THAT'S TO GO THERE MYSELF! I JUST CAN'T BELIEVE I DID THESE THINGS IN MY SLEEP!
THROUGH THE UNIVERSE THE BRAVE TORCH SPEEDS ON HIS DANGEROUS MISSION, UNAWARE OF THE FATE THAT AWAITS HIM!
IT'S TRUE! THE WHOLE PLACE HAS BEEN SET AFIRE, AND IT LOOKS LIKE THE COUNTRY I SAW IN MY DREAM! BUT... MY FLAME IS GIVING OUT!
BUT WHEN HE NEARS VENUS, A HORRIBLE SIGHT GREETS HIS STARTLED EYES!
EVERY OUNCE OF ENERGY THE HUMAN TORCH POSSESSES HAS BEEN USED UP ON THIS INTERPLANETARY VOYAGE... ALMOST AT THE SURFACE OF VENUS, HIS FLAME GIVES OUT!
MY FLAME GAVE OUT! I'M FALLING!
THERE HE IS! THE HUMAN TORCH IS IN OUR POWER!
OOOOOOOH!
AND HE CRASHES TO THE GROUND, KNOCKED UNCONSCIOUS BY THE TERRIFIC IMPACT!
HERE IS THE TORCH, ALURA! WHAT SHALL WE DO WITH HIM NOW?
THE LIZARD-DEATH, IMMEDIATELY! LET THE PEOPLE SEE WHAT HAPPENS TO THOSE WHO BRING HAVOC TO VENUS!
TAKEN TO THE ANGRY QUEEN, A TERRIBLE DEATH SENTENCE IS IMMEDIATELY PASSED UPON THE DEFENSELESS TORCH!

A STRANGE AND AWFUL PROCESSION REACHES A GREAT AMPHITHEATER IN THE CENTER OF WHICH IS... A PIT! SHRILL VOICES CLAMOR FOR REVENGE!
THROW HIM IN! THE LIZARDS HUNGER!
DEATH TO THE ENEMY!
DESTROY HIM! HE IS OUR MORTAL FOE!
BUT AN ASTONISHING SIGHT SUDDENLY ATTRACTS THE PEOPLE OF VENUS! THROUGH THE SKY COMES A BEING EXACTLY LIKE THE TORCH!
ANOTHER FIRE-CREATURE! THE EARTH MEN FOOLED US! NOW WE WILL SET OFF THE DISINTEGRATING RAY! WE WILL NOT BE TRICKED!
EEEEEE!
AS HE FALLS TOWARD THE DEADLY REPTILES, TORCH AWAKES!
WOW! LOOK AT THOSE MONSTERS! I'VE GOT TO GET MY BACK AGAINST THE WALL, AND THEN I'VE GOT ONE CHANCE!
"FLAME ON!"... AND THE BEASTS REAR BACK FROM THE FLAME OF THE TORCH'S BODY!
JUST LIKE WILD ANIMALS BACK ON EARTH, THEY'RE AFRAID OF FIRE! NOW IF I HAVE ENOUGH POWER, I CAN GET UP OUT OF THIS PIT!
WHAT? IT'S ANOTHER TORCH! HE MUST BE THE ONE WHO DID THE THINGS THEY BLAME ME FOR! I'D BETTER HAVE A LITTLE TALK WITH THIS CHARACTER!
HIGH ABOVE THE PANICKED THRONGS OF VENUSIANS TWO FIERY FIGURES RACE TOWARD EACH OTHER...
THIS WILL BE A CASE OF FIRE FIGHTING FIRE... WITH A VENGEANCE!
BOOM!
...AND CRASH TOGETHER IN MORTAL COMBAT! THIS IS TO THE DEATH!
5

WOW! THAT WAS TOO MUCH FOR ME! I'M TOO TIRED TO MEET HIM ON EQUAL TERMS AFTER THAT LONG TRIP FROM EARTH! OH-OH! HERE HE COMES AGAIN!
UGH! HE'S POWERFUL! I CAN'T TAKE MUCH MORE OF THIS!
AH! THE EARTHLING CANNOT STAND UP AGAINST ME! AFTER I CONQUER VENUS, I SHALL TAKE OVER THE EARTH, TOO!
WEAKENED BY HIS ORDEAL, THE TORCH FALLS BEFORE HIS ONRUSHING FOE!
... AND CAPTOR FACES CAPTIVE!
SO...YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S BEEN DOING THINGS I'VE BEEN BLAMED FOR! WHO ARE YOU? WHERE ARE YOU FROM?
I'M THE ONLY SURVIVOR OF MY STAR! I COME FROM ONE OF THE GIANT RED STARS... THE HOME OF THE FLAME PEOPLE! BUT I ALONE ESCAPED WHEN THE STAR EXPLODED!
I'LL HAVE TO GAIN TIME UNTIL MY FLAME COMES BACK...
HOW DID YOU KNOW WHO I WAS?
I'VE HEARD THESE VENUS PEOPLE DISCUSSING YOU, SO I KNEW WHO YOU WERE! NOW, WHEN I INVADE THE EARTH, YOU WILL BE OUT OF MY WAY!
NOW I KNOW WHY I HAD THAT STRANGE DREAM! IT WAS A PSYCHIC RELATION BETWEEN US BECAUSE OF MY FLAME POWERS! IT WAS A WARNING FOR ME, BUT I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND IT!
IN A FLASH, THE TORCH REALIZES WHAT HAPPENED!
YOU SAY I'LL BE OUT OF YOUR WAY WHEN YOU INVADE THE EARTH! YOU MEAN YOU'RE GOING THERE?
I CAN FEEL MY POWER COMING BACK! IF I CAN STALL FOR JUST ANOTHER MINUTE!
NEVER MIND THAT STALLING, HUMAN TORCH! YOU'RE GOING TO DIE RIGHT NOW!
IT'S ALMOST HERE! IN ANOTHER TEN SECONDS I'LL BE MYSELF AGAIN!
HA-HA-HA! YOU WRETCHED EARTHLING, YOU WON'T GET VERY FAR BY RUNNING!
THE TORCH LEAPS AGILELY AWAY FROM THE ONCOMING STAR-MAN...BEGGING DESPERATELY FOR TIME...TIME THAT WILL MEAN LIFE FOR EARTH AND VENUS ...IF HE GAINS IT!

THE TORCH BURSTS INTO FLAME, AND HUNTER AND HUNTED FLAME LIKE COMETS ACROSS THE SKY OF VENUS!
I'M GAINING ON HIM! ANOTHER MOMENT WILL SEE THE LAST OF THE HUMAN TORCH!
IF I CAN HOLD OUT JUST A LITTLE LONGER! MY FLAME IS DYING AGAIN...BUT I'VE GOT A CHANCE... ONE CHANCE!
THE HUMAN TORCH IS A COWARD! HE IS RUNNING AWAY!
AT LAST! WATER! THE WATER I'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR!
NOW THE TORCH TURNS BACK AND ROARS AT HIS ENEMY! ANOTHER FLAMING CRASH, AND THEY DIVE TOWARD THE SEA!
OKAY! YOU'VE CAUGHT ME! WE'LL SEE HOW YOU LIKE IT!
FOOL! I'LL CONQUER YOU AS I DID BEFORE!
A HISSING, STEAMING DIVE, AND THEY PLUNGE INTO THE OCEAN!
IF I CAN'T FIGHT FIRE WITH FIRE, I CAN FIGHT IT WITH WATER!
SPLASH!
HE'S GONE, FINISHED! BECAUSE HE WAS ALL FIRE, HE TURNED INTO STEAM WHEN HE HIT THE WATER! HIS STRENGTH WAS THAT HE WAS ALL FIRE, BUT THAT WAS HIS WEAKNESS, TOO, AND NOW HE IS COMPLETELY EXTINGUISHED! NOW TO EXPLAIN TO THESE VENUS PEOPLE!
THAT NIGHT, THERE IS A GALA CELEBRATION ON THE PLANET, VENUS, WITH AN HONORED GUEST FROM THE PLANET EARTH, NOW THE FRIEND OF ALURA AND HER PEOPLE!
NOT BAD! YOU'RE LEARNING TO RHUMBA IN A HURRY!
I'D BETTER! IF I FAILED, I MIGHT GET WHAT YOU CALL A HOT-FOOT, EH, TORCH?
I'VE SENT A MESSAGE TO EARTH, TELLING THEM THE ENTIRE STORY! I THINK I'M BEGINNING TO LIKE THE EARTH PEOPLE MUCH BETTER NOW!
I'M SURE GLAD OF THAT! IT FEELS FINE TO BE LIKED BY PEOPLE AGAIN! THE HUMAN TORCH WAS BEGINNING TO FEEL LIKE A WET BLANKET THERE FOR A WHILE!
SO INTERPLANETARY RELATIONS ARE SEALED AND CEMENTED BY EARTH'S MAGNIFICENT DIPLOMAT...THE HUMAN TORCH!
THE END

RED UNIT

- ANNIE OAKLEY
- BLACKSTONE THE MAGICIAN
- BLONDE PHANTOM
- COMPLETE MYSTERY STORIES
- CRIMEFIGHTERS ALWAYS WIN
- GEORGIE
- IDEAL COMICS
- JOKER COMICS
- JUSTICE
- LAWBREAKERS ALWAYS LOSE
- MARGIE
- MARVEL MYSTERY COMICS
- MILLIE THE MODEL
- NAMORA
- NELLIE THE NURSE
- PATSY WALKER
- SUB-MARINER
- SUN GIRL
- TEEN COMICS
- TESSIE THE TYPIST
- TEX MORGAN
- TWO-GUN KID
- WILD WESTERN
- WILLIE

BLUE-YELLOW UNIT

- ALL-TRUE CRIME CASES
- ALL WINNERS
- BLAZE CARSON
- CAPTAIN AMERICA
- CINDY
- COMEDY COMICS
- CRIME EXPOSED
- FRANKIE
- GAY COMICS
- HEDY DE VINE
- HUMAN TORCH
- JEANIE
- JUNIOR MISS
- KID COLT
- KRAZY KOMICS
- LANA
- MITZI
- MY ROMANCE
- OSCAR
- POWERHOUSE PEPPER
- RUSTY
- SUPER RABBIT
- TEX TAYLOR
- THE WITNESS
- VENUS
- WACKY DUCK

MARVEL
COMIC GROUP

HI FRIENDS:

Lately there has been quite a debate about comics raging in the pages of the Saturday Review of Literature, one of America's most respected magazines. In an article, a Dr. Wertham discussed the problem of juvenile delinquency in America today, and pinned the blame for some of these cases on comic magazines, simply because many of the delinquent youngsters had read comics.

93% of all young people (from 8 to 16 years of age) read comics. Naturally a few young people get into some kind of trouble . . . so do a lot of older ones . . . and of course many of the kids who get into trouble do read comics. But what the article does not state is the fact that 93% of the boys and girls who get into *no trouble at all* also read comics.

Let us quote a letter from David Pace Wigransky, a 14 year old reader of comics, published in the July 24th issue of the Saturday Review:

". . . In none of these cases was it proved that reading comic books was the cause of the delinquency. A good many of the delinquents mentioned happened to be readers of comic magazines, just as are 69,999,975 perfectly healthy, happy, normal American boys and girls, men and women, who also read comics.

". . . It appears that his [Dr. Wertham's] $64 question to a child being psychoanalyzed is, 'Do you read COMIC BOOKS, my little man?' Of course the juvenile delinquent, *being a normal child in at least that way,* will answer 'Yes'."

In other words, the case is just as we stated it above. Since almost all kids of any kind read comics, naturally some of the delinquents read comics too. But since the same percentage holds true among the millions of youngsters who have committed *no offense at all,* why not give the comics credit for the good influence they have been on these millions of healthy, normal kids, instead of just blaming them for our handful of delinquents?

Once again let us remind you to show our magazines, or any of the other *good* comics, to people who criticize this form of entertainment. Show those people that your favorite magazines are not harmful. Let them see Dr. Thompson's endorsement on the first page of every one of our magazines, and prove to one and all that the comics you buy and read are *good for you.*

THE EDITORS
MARVEL COMIC GROUP

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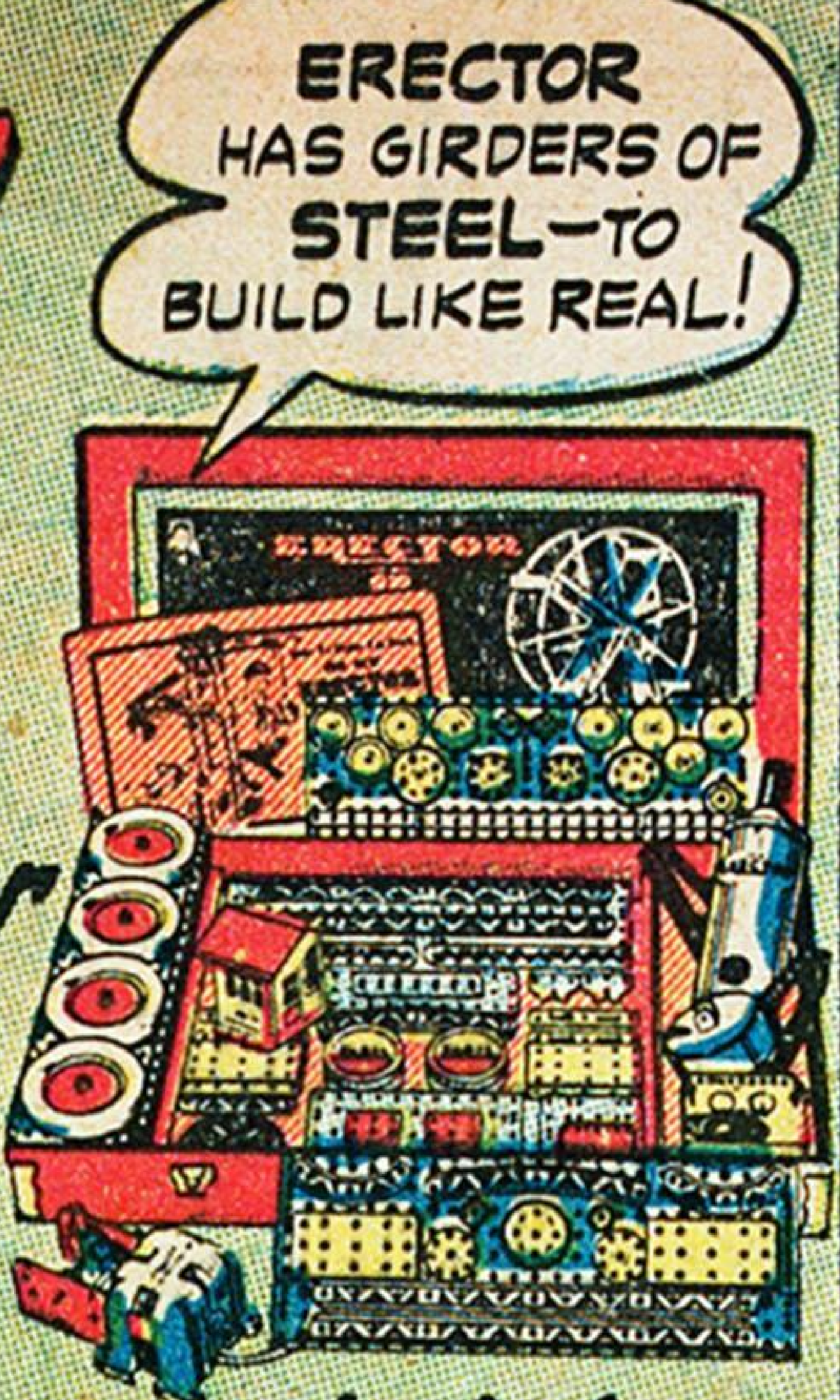
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ERECTOR

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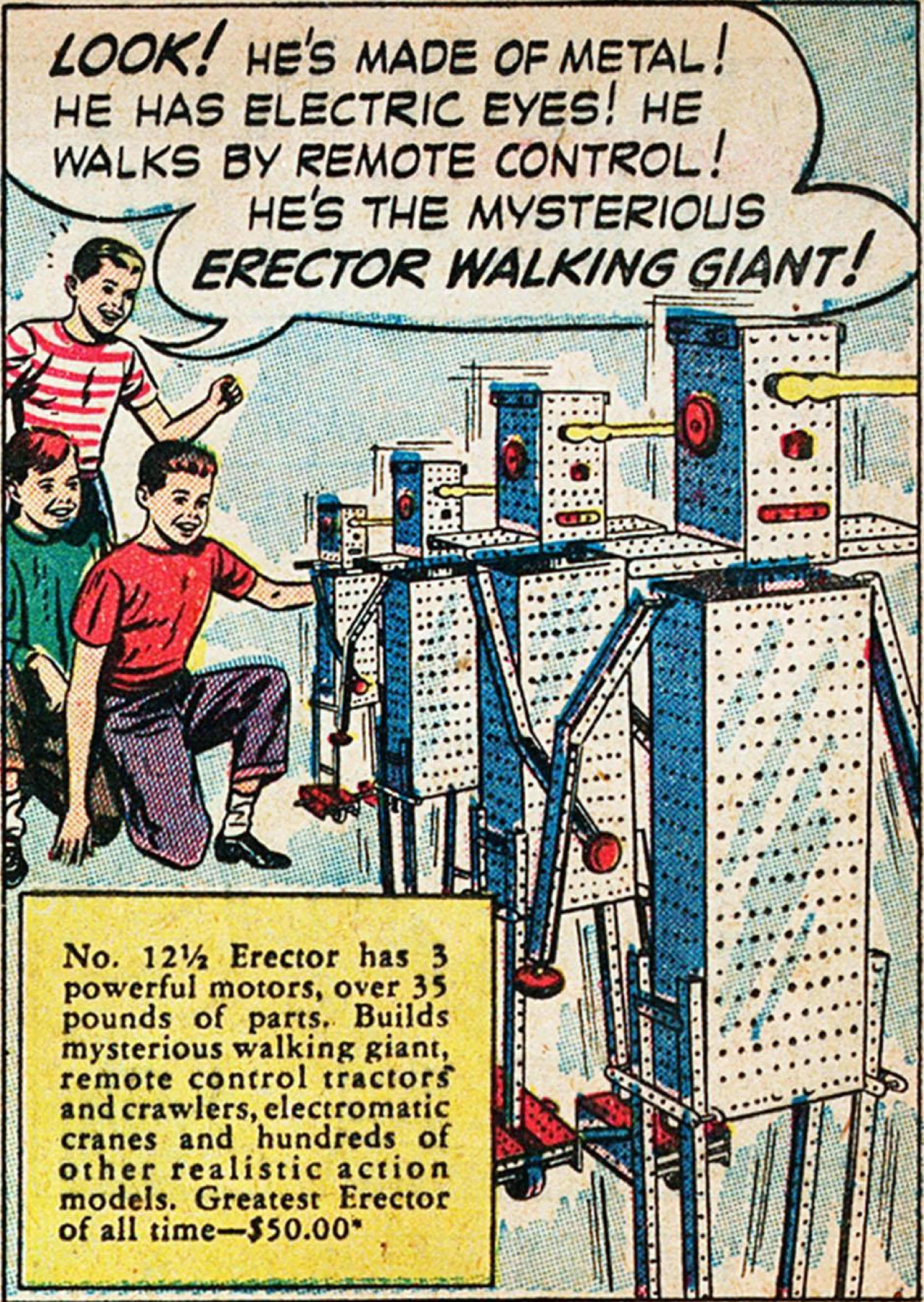
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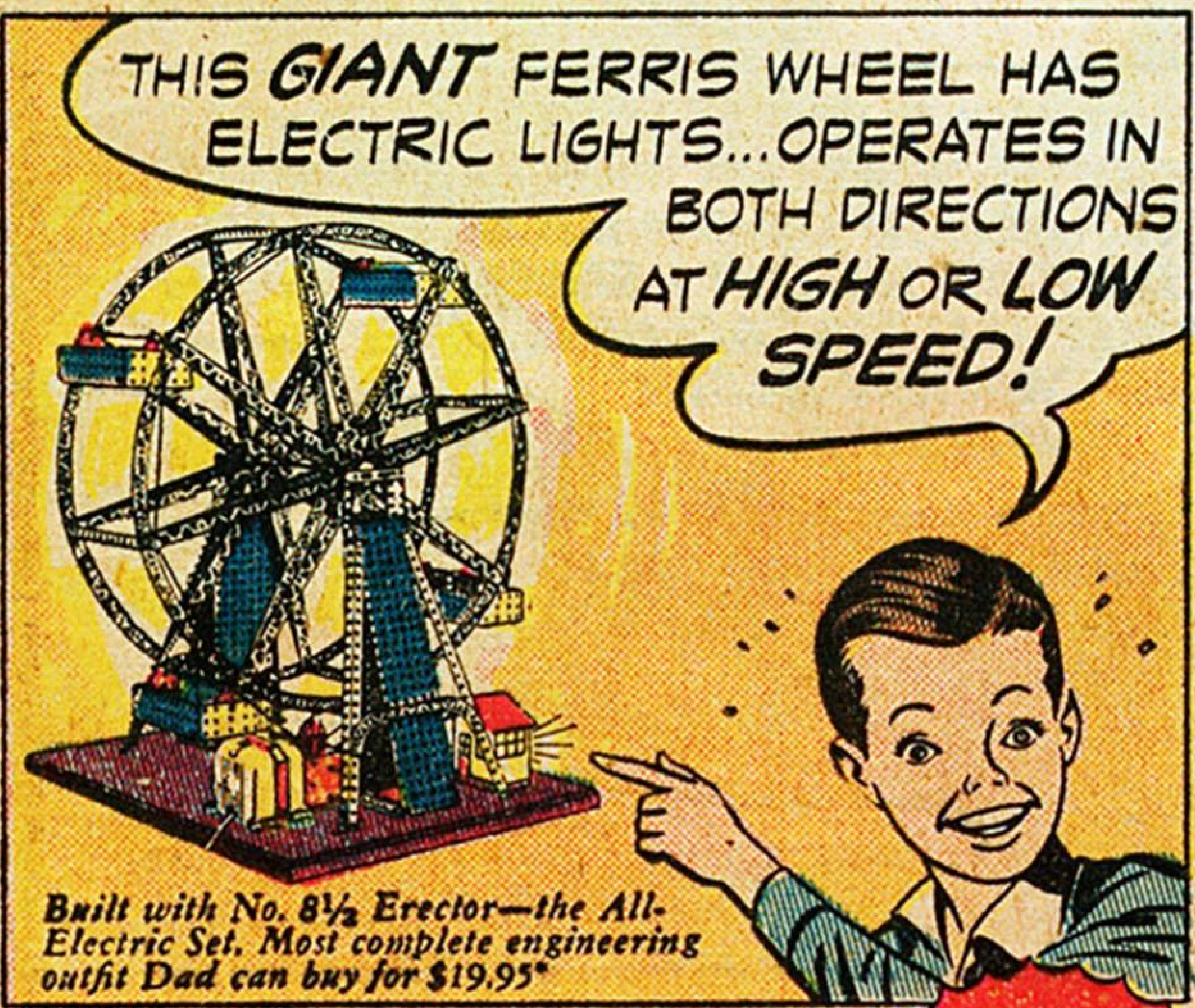
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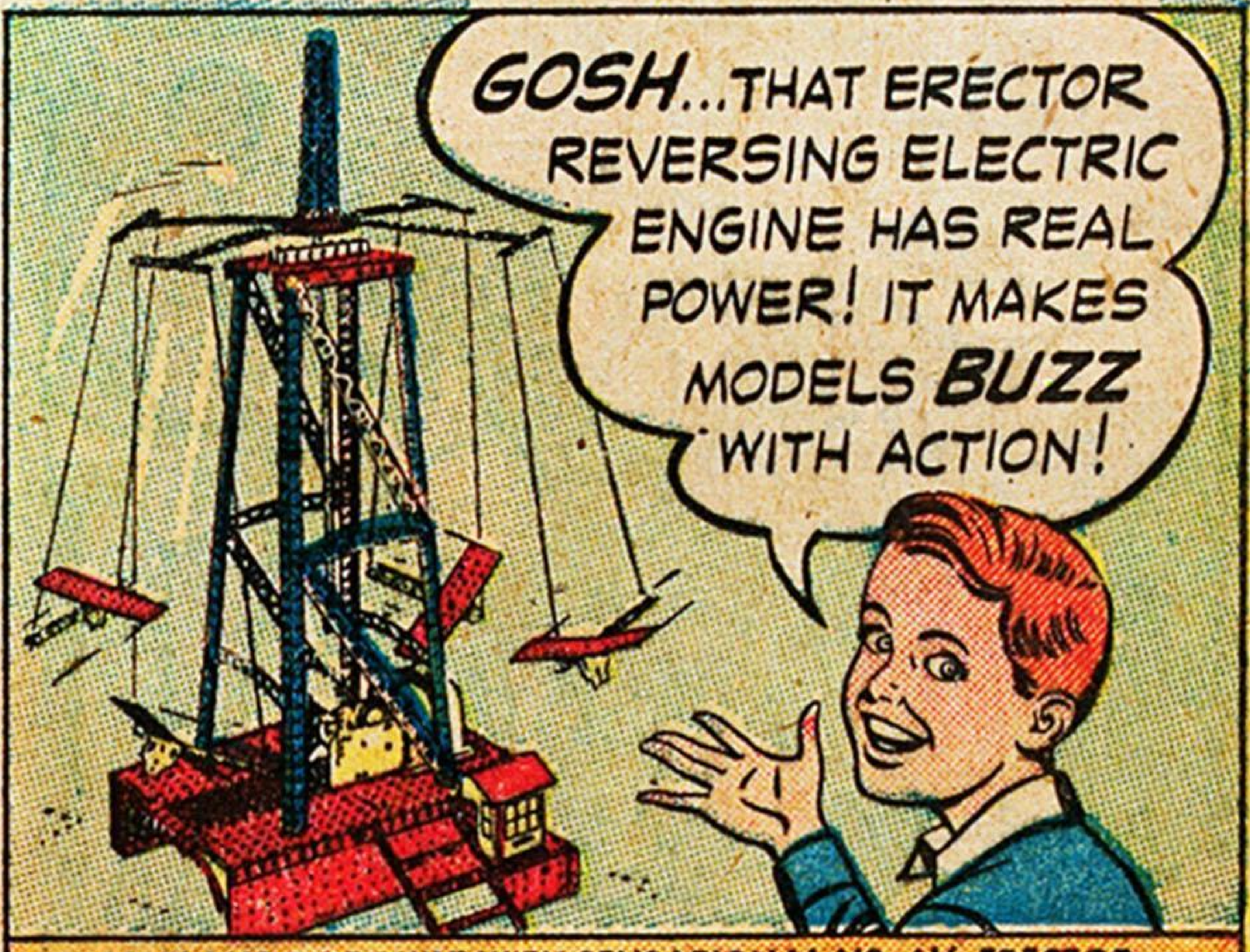
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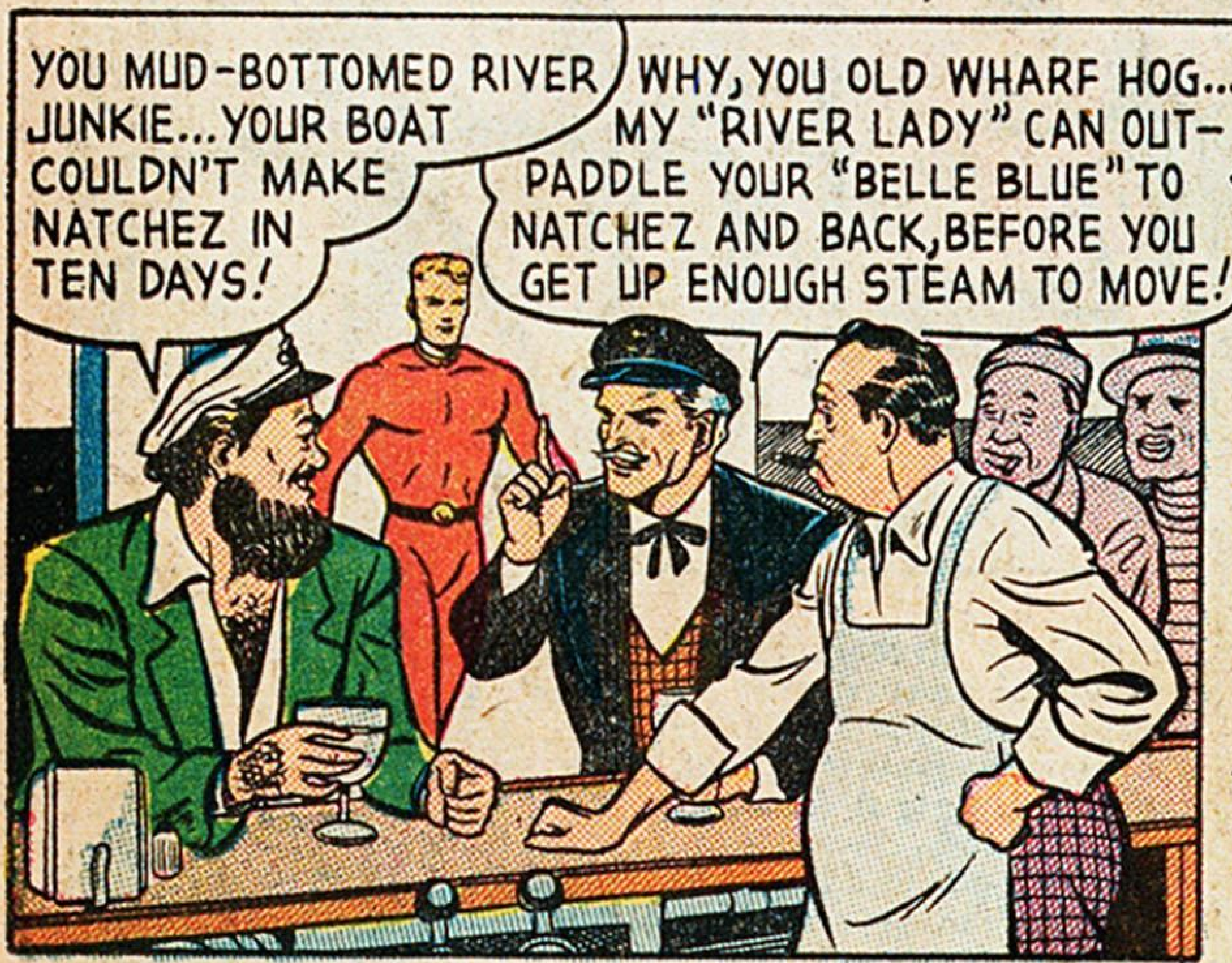
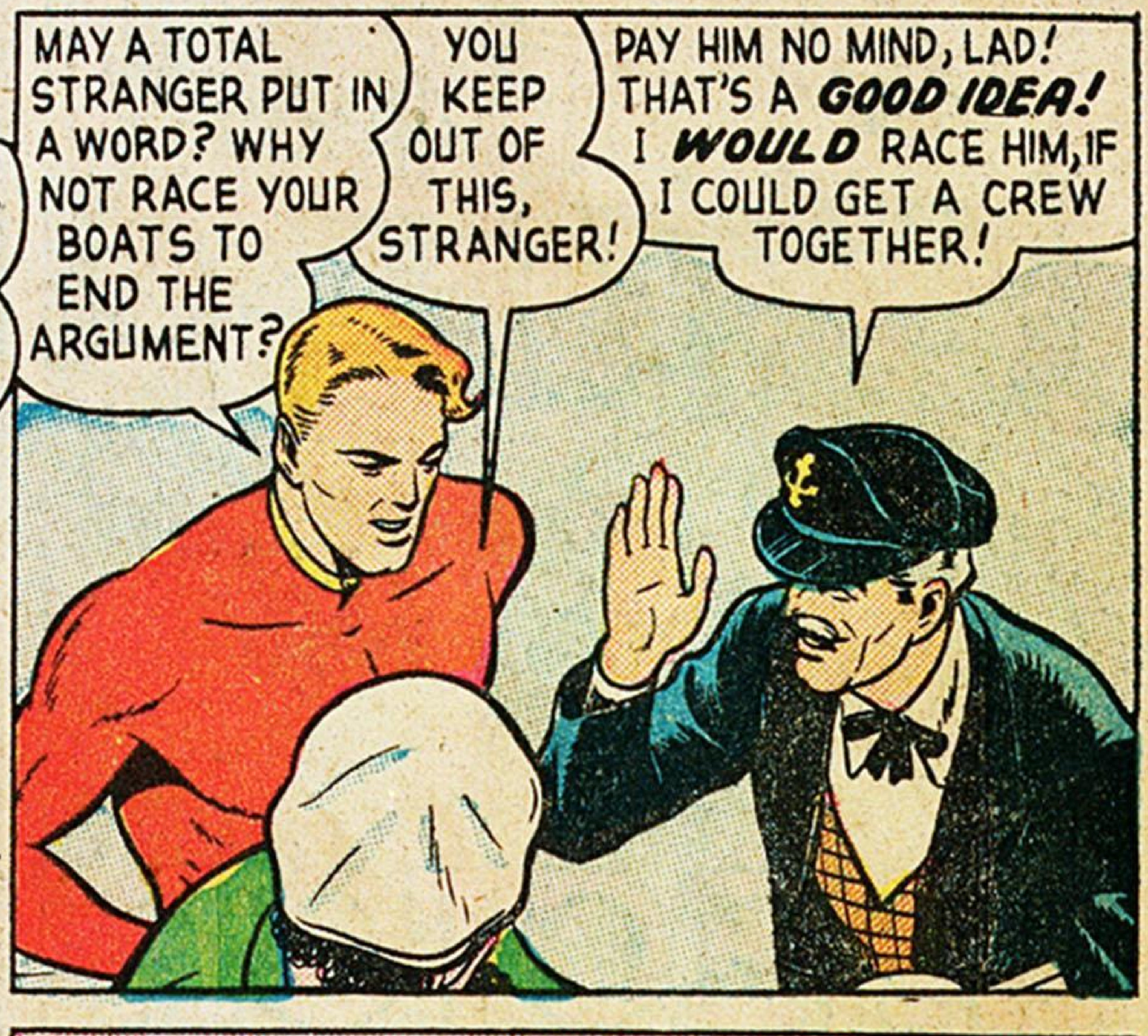
A HUMAN TORCH SPECIAL FEATURE

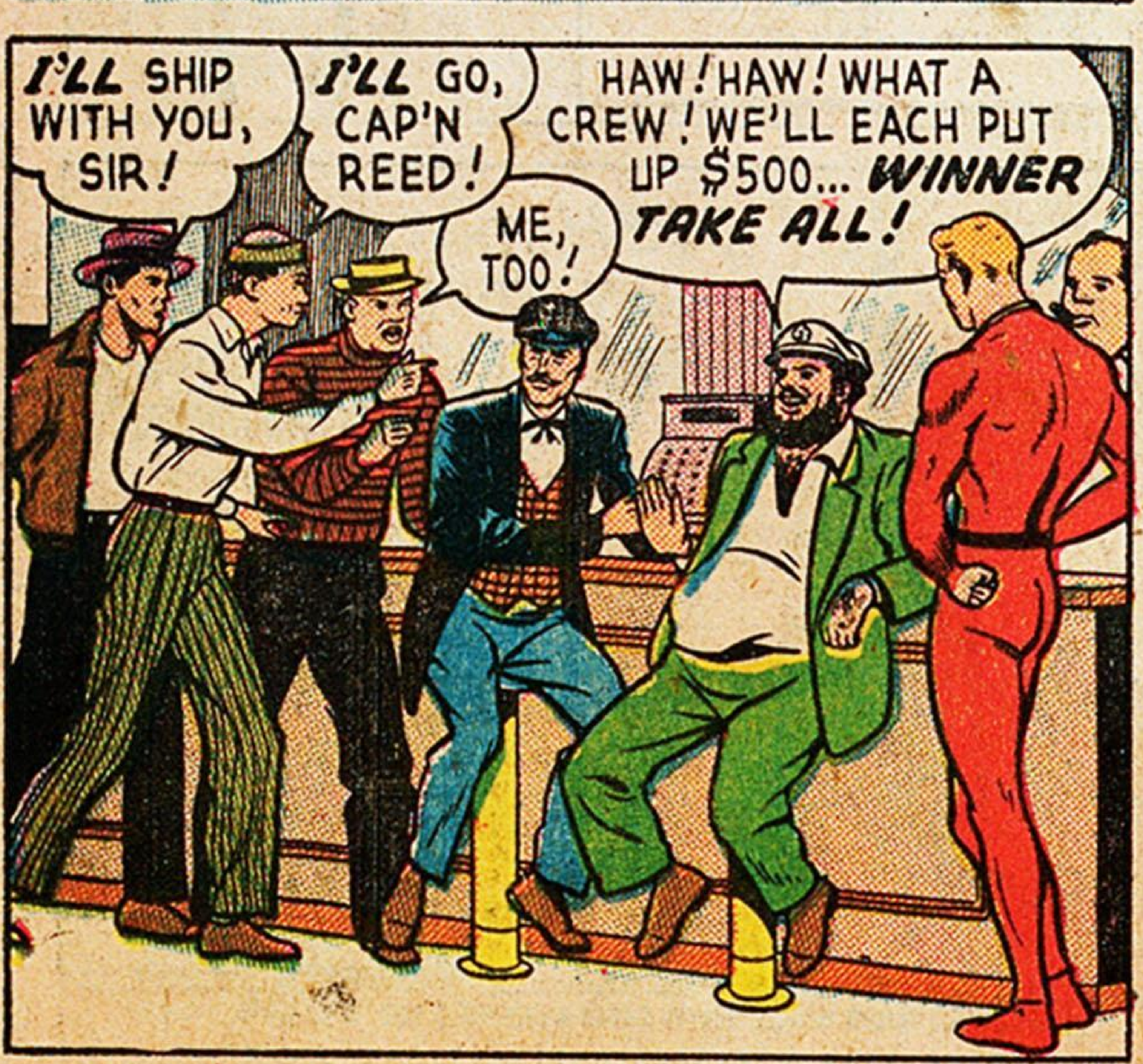
FLAMING VICTORY!

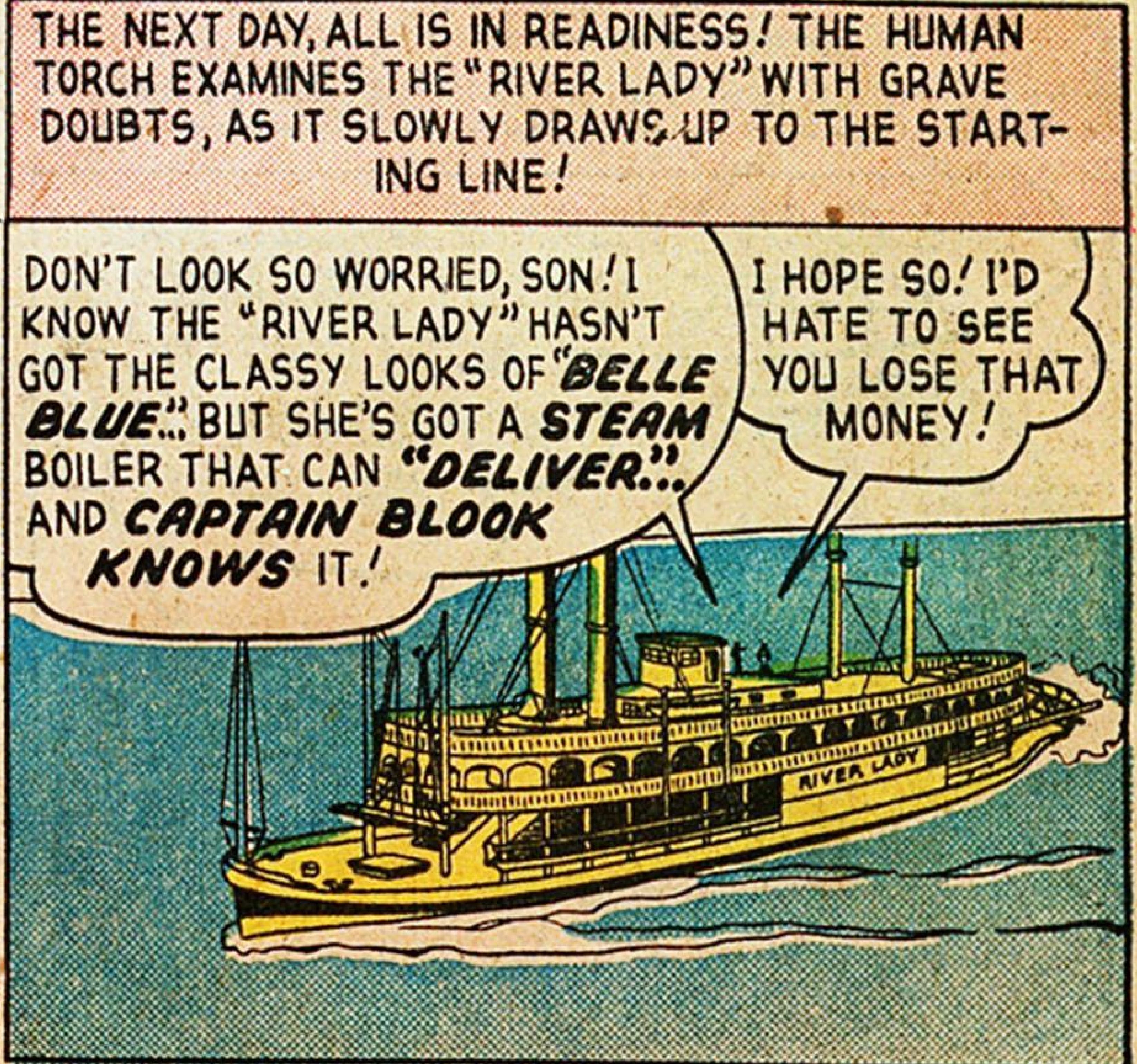
4154

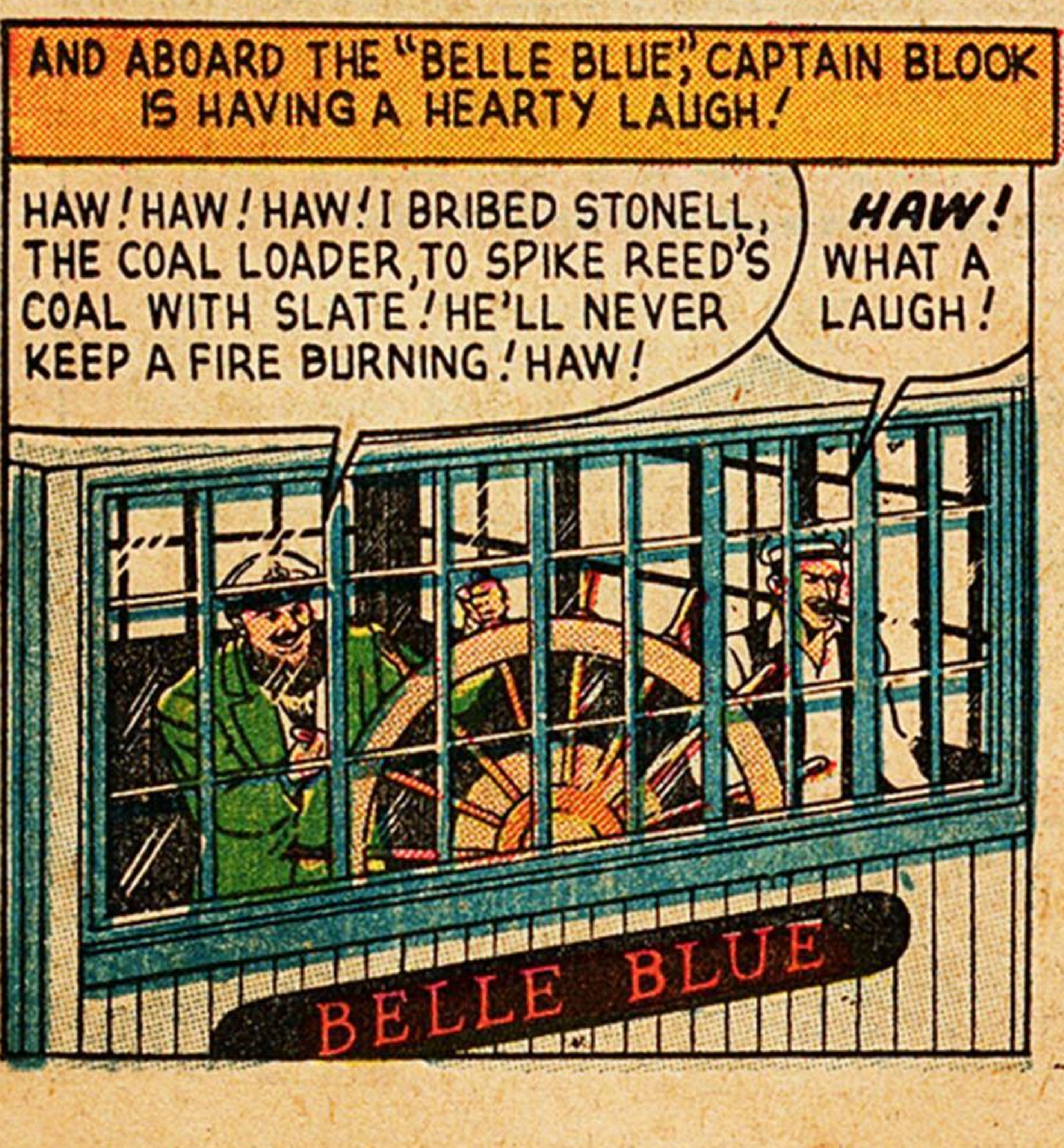
IN A SMALL MISSISSIPPI TOWN, THE HUMAN TORCH STOPS AT A LOCAL INN FOR A FEW MINUTES, ONLY TO FIND THE PLACE A HOT-HOUSE OF ARGUMENT, AS...


YOU MUD-BOTTOMED RIVER JUNKIE... YOUR BOAT COULDN'T MAKE NATCHEZ IN TEN DAYS!
WHY, YOU OLD WHARF HOG... MY "RIVER LADY" CAN OUT-PADDLE YOUR "BELLE BLUE" TO NATCHEZ AND BACK, BEFORE YOU GET UP ENOUGH STEAM TO MOVE!

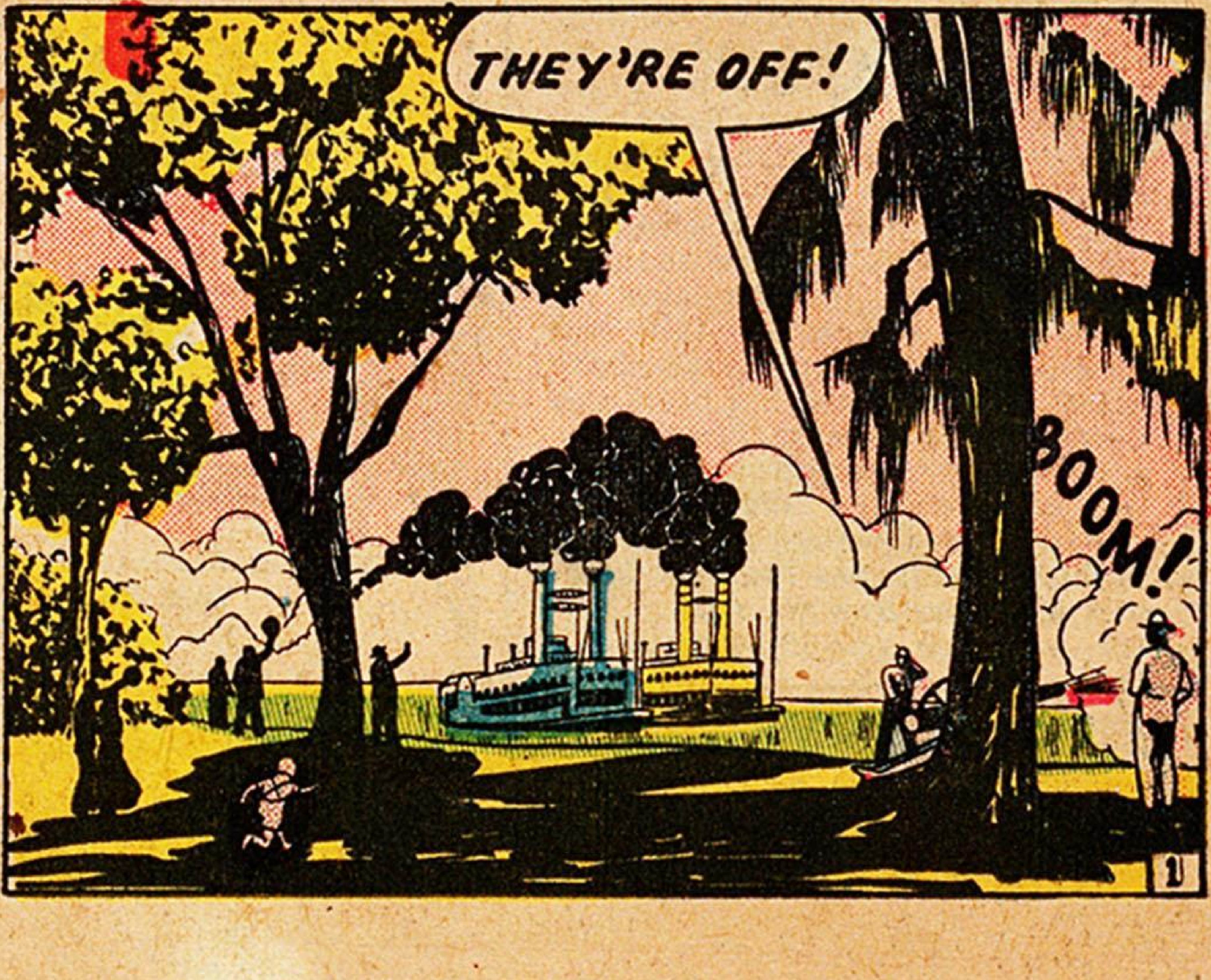

MAY A TOTAL STRANGER PUT IN A WORD? WHY NOT RACE YOUR BOATS TO END THE ARGUMENT?
YOU KEEP OUT OF THIS, STRANGER!
PAY HIM NO MIND, LAD! THAT'S A GOOD IDEA! I WOULD RACE HIM, IF I COULD GET A CREW TOGETHER!

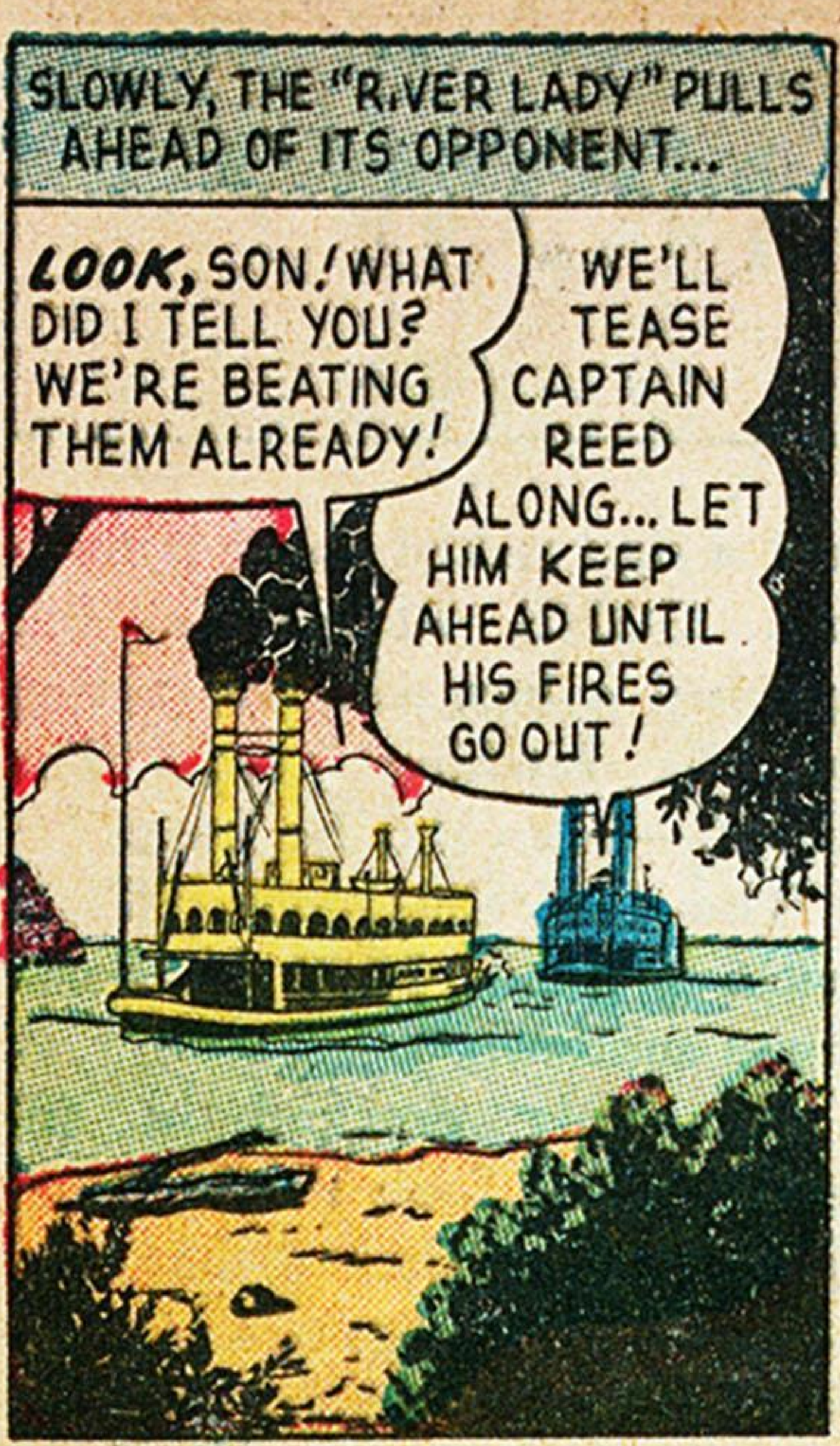

I'LL SHIP WITH YOU, SIR!
I'LL GO, CAP'N REED!
ME, TOO!
HAW! HAW! WHAT A CREW! WE'LL EACH PUT UP $500... WINNER TAKE ALL!

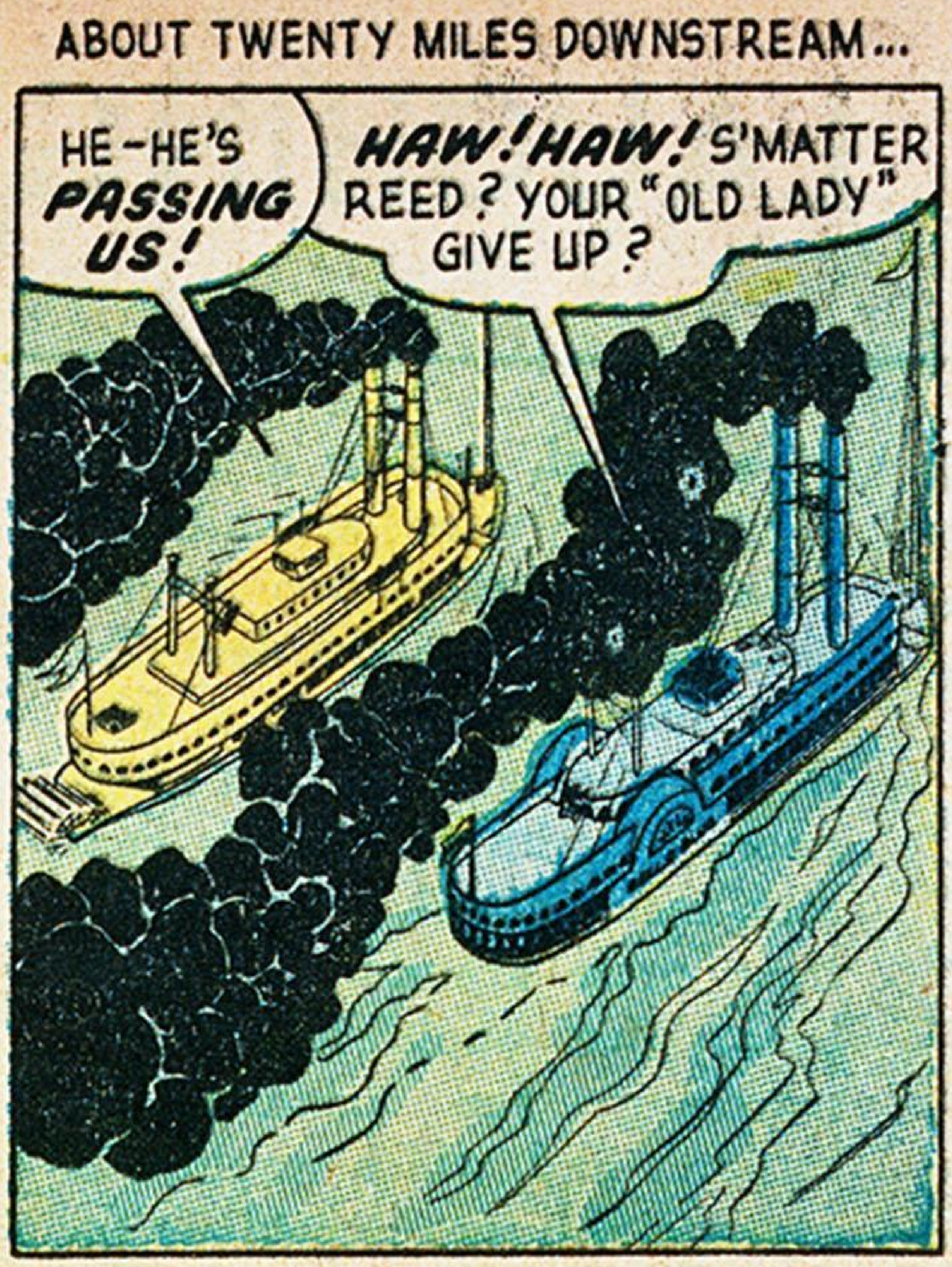

THE NEXT DAY, ALL IS IN READINESS! THE HUMAN TORCH EXAMINES THE "RIVER LADY" WITH GRAVE DOUBTS, AS IT SLOWLY DRAWS UP TO THE STARTING LINE!
DON'T LOOK SO WORRIED, SON! I KNOW THE "RIVER LADY" HASN'T GOT THE CLASSY LOOKS OF "BELLE BLUE"... BUT SHE'S GOT A STEAM BOILER THAT CAN "DELIVER"... AND CAPTAIN BLOOK KNOWS IT!
I HOPE SO! I'D HATE TO SEE YOU LOSE THAT MONEY!
RIVER LADY

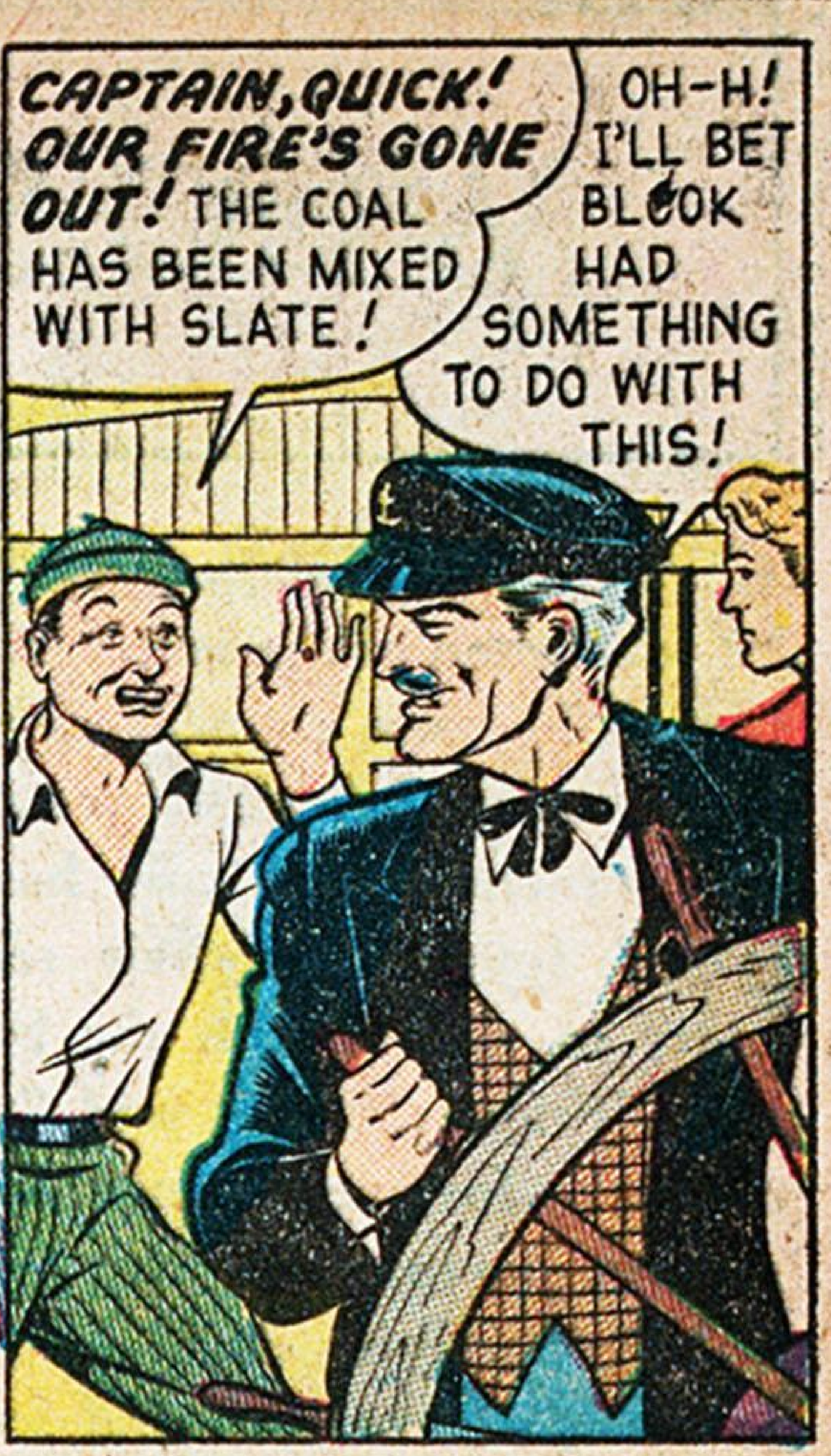

AND ABOARD THE "BELLE BLUE", CAPTAIN BLOOK IS HAVING A HEARTY LAUGH!
HAW! HAW! HAW! I BRIBED STONELL, THE COAL LOADER, TO SPIKE REED'S COAL WITH SLATE! HE'LL NEVER KEEP A FIRE BURNING! HAW!
HAW! WHAT A LAUGH!
BELLE BLUE

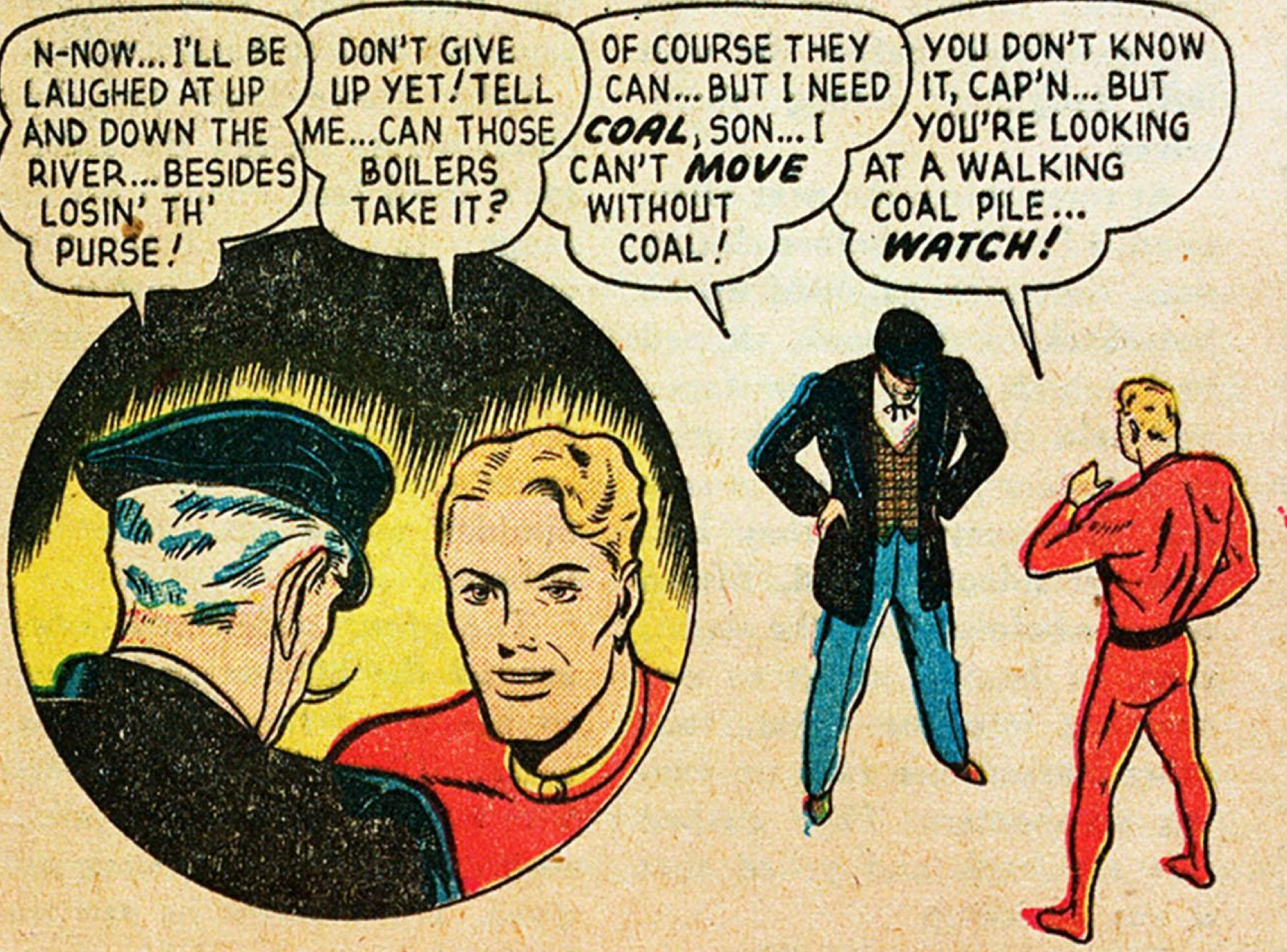
A CANNON ON SHORE BLASTS THE STARTING SIGNAL...

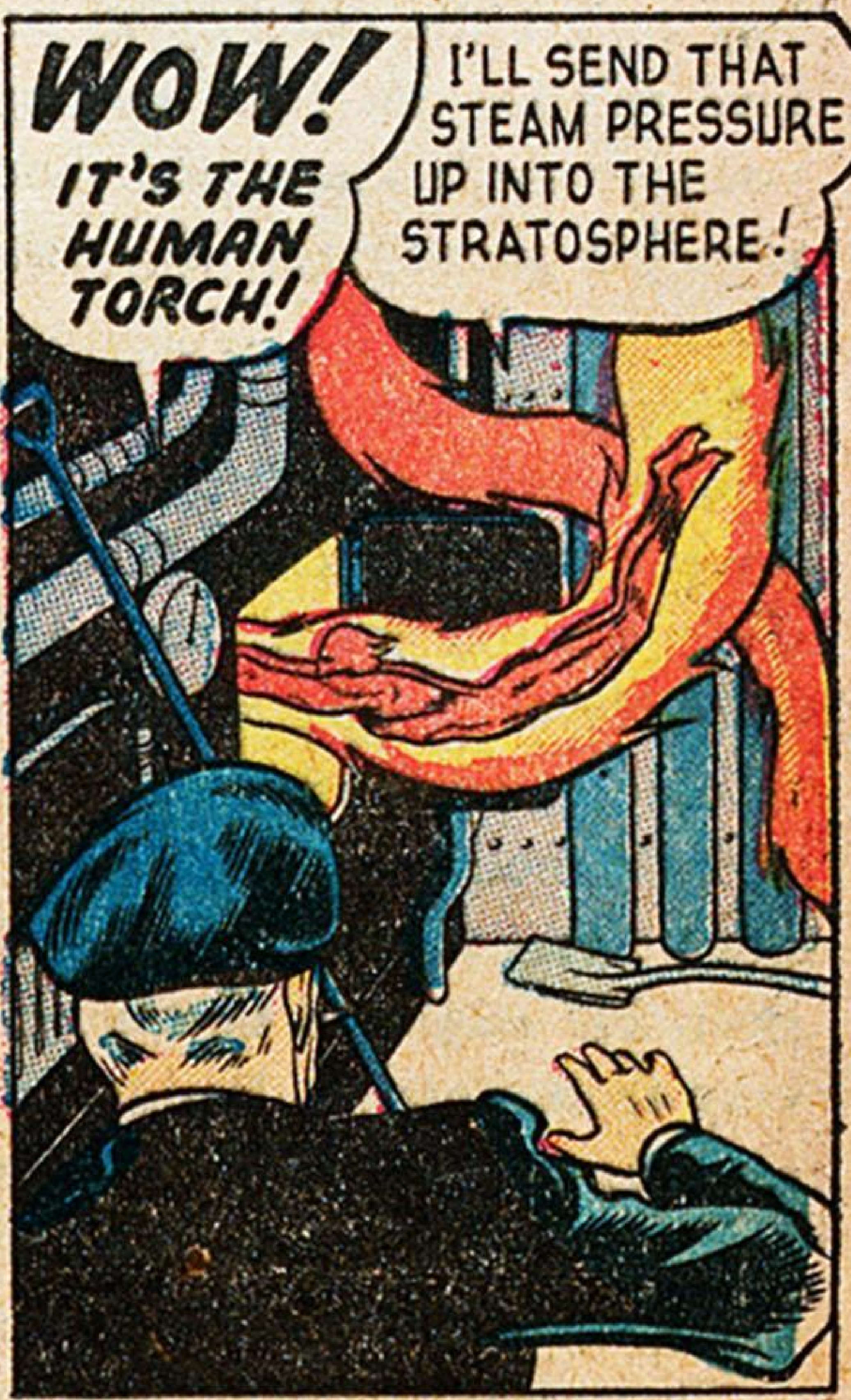

THEY'RE OFF!
BOOM!

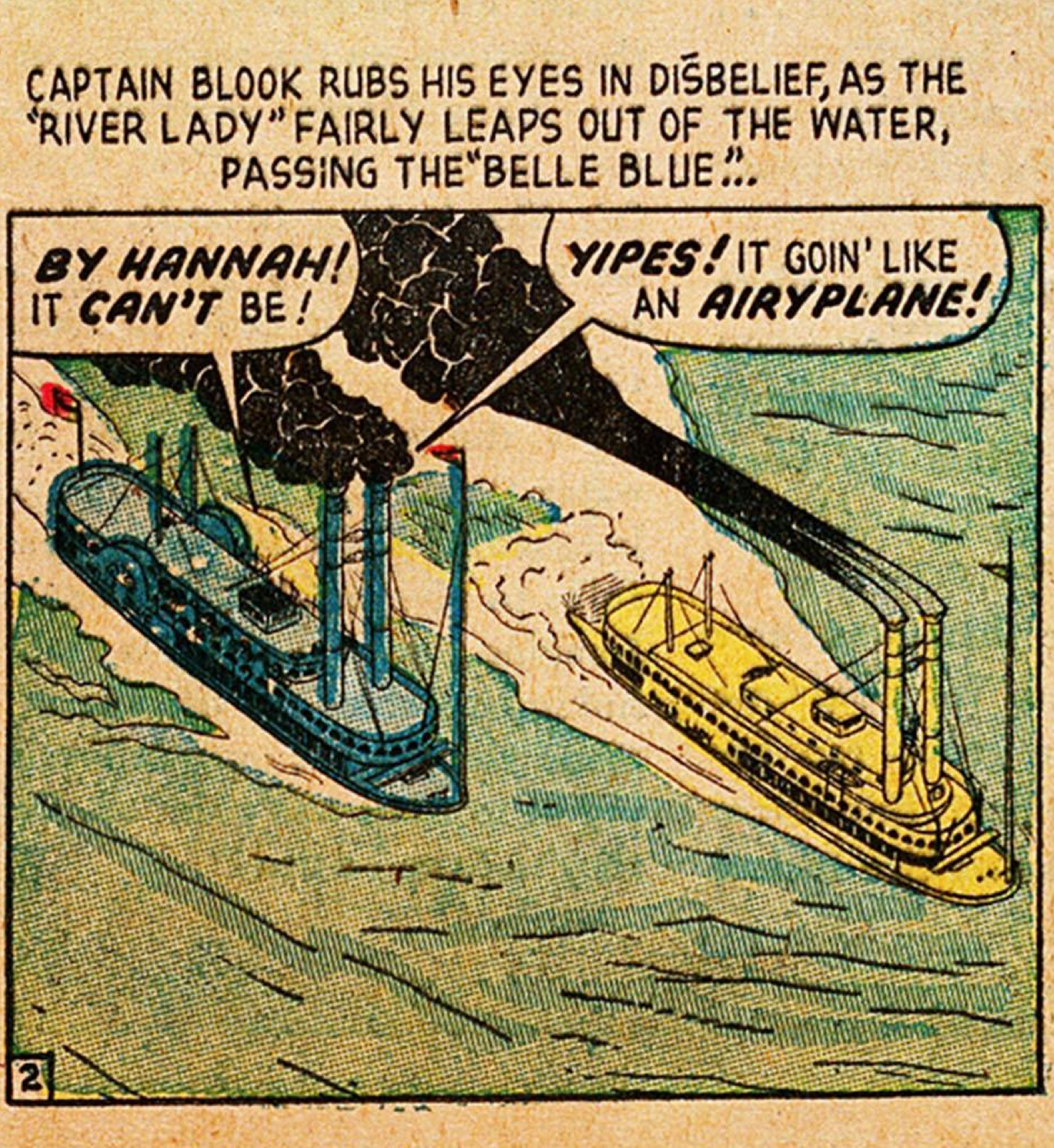

SLOWLY, THE "RIVER LADY" PULLS AHEAD OF ITS OPPONENT...
LOOK, SON! WHAT DID I TELL YOU? WE'RE BEATING THEM ALREADY!
WE'LL TEASE CAPTAIN REED ALONG... LET HIM KEEP AHEAD UNTIL HIS FIRES GO OUT!

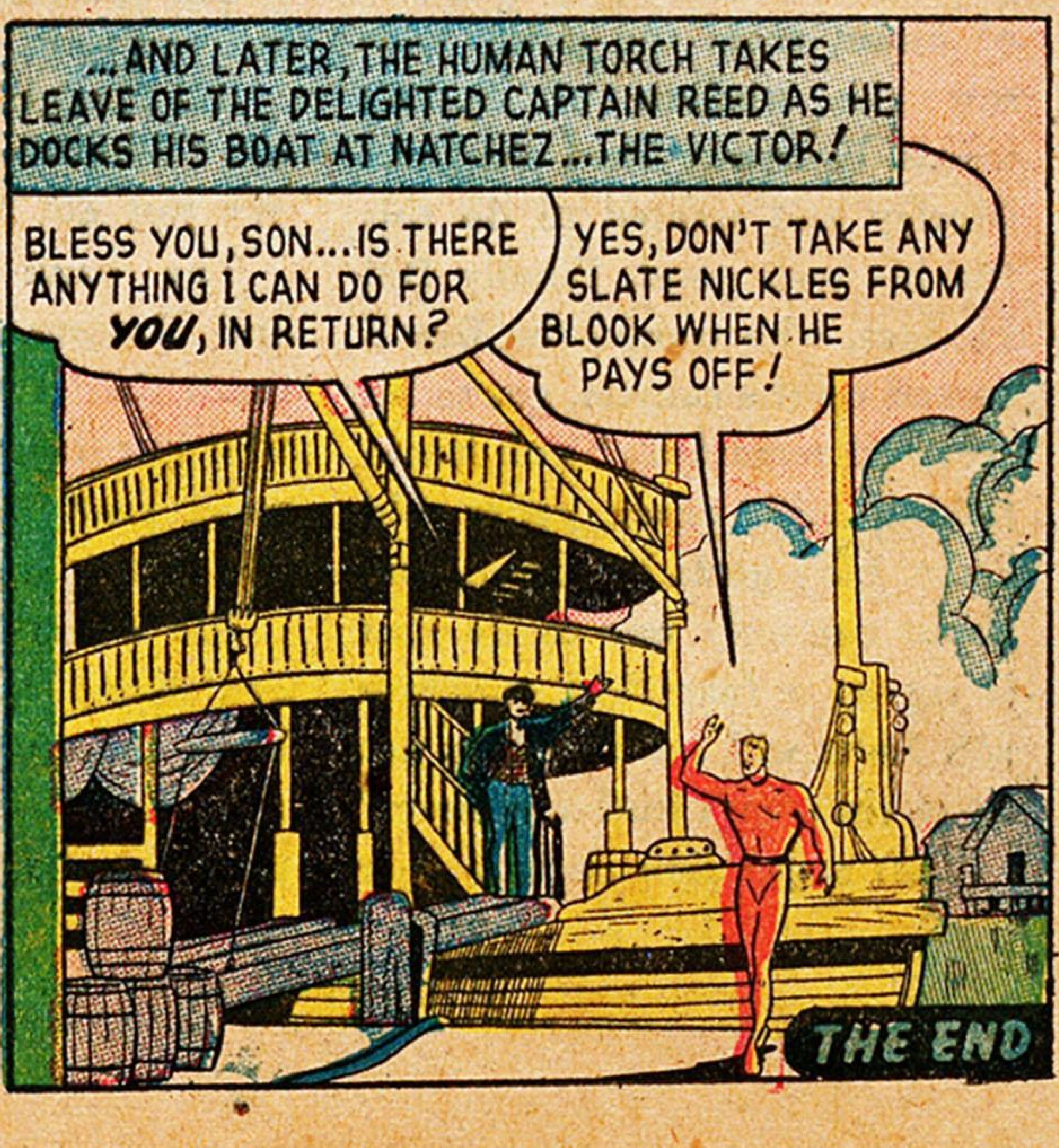

ABOUT TWENTY MILES DOWNSTREAM...
HE-HE'S PASSING US!
HAW! HAW! S'MATTER REED? YOUR "OLD LADY" GIVE UP?


CAPTAIN, QUICK! OUR FIRE'S GONE OUT! THE COAL HAS BEEN MIXED WITH SLATE!
OH-H! I'LL BET BLOOK HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH THIS!


N-NOW... I'LL BE LAUGHED AT UP AND DOWN THE RIVER... BESIDES LOSIN' TH' PURSE!
DON'T GIVE UP YET! TELL ME... CAN THOSE BOILERS TAKE IT?
OF COURSE THEY CAN... BUT I NEED COAL, SON... I CAN'T MOVE WITHOUT COAL!
YOU DON'T KNOW IT, CAP'N... BUT YOU'RE LOOKING AT A WALKING COAL PILE... WATCH!


WOW! IT'S THE HUMAN TORCH!
I'LL SEND THAT STEAM PRESSURE UP INTO THE STRATOSPHERE!


CAPTAIN BLOOK RUBS HIS EYES IN DISBELIEF, AS THE "RIVER LADY" FAIRLY LEAPS OUT OF THE WATER, PASSING THE "BELLE BLUE"...
BY HANNAH! IT CAN'T BE!
YIPES! IT GOIN' LIKE AN AIRYPLANE!


...AND LATER, THE HUMAN TORCH TAKES LEAVE OF THE DELIGHTED CAPTAIN REED AS HE DOCKS HIS BOAT AT NATCHEZ... THE VICTOR!
BLESS YOU, SON... IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO FOR YOU, IN RETURN?
YES, DON'T TAKE ANY SLATE NICKLES FROM BLOOK WHEN HE PAYS OFF!
THE END

WHO'S LAUGHING NOW?

SPIKE HIGGINS, presiding chairman at the secret meeting of the town council, rapped his knuckles on the desk for quiet. The ranchers and cow hands leaned forward in their seats, eager to get on with the business. "Friends," Spike said, "this meetin' is for one purpose. After serving our town for fifty years, Sheriff Morley has decided not to retire. We're here to find some way to get the old boy to pasture so's we can elect someone younger—yuh know, somebody who kin move around a little more."

"Mr. Chairman," Charlie Hobbs spoke up, "why do we have to do that? Luke Morley's done a purty good job, hasn't he? Never seems to be any trouble in town anyway."

Spike nodded. "That's right, but we sort of owe it to the old gent. He ought to be taking it easy from now on. Besides, the town is starting to grow some, and the bigger it gits, the more likely somethin' is tuh happen."

There was a general murmur of assent from the group who saw the wisdom of Spike's words. Everyone liked old Luke Morley and wanted to do this for his own good. Finally Bill Hodges, who owned the Bar-Y spread up the canyon, got to his feet and remarked, "Yuh know, talking will never retire old Luke. He's gotta be shown, and about the only way to do that is rig up a fake deal somehow so's Luke will see that he's not up to the rough stuff any more."

This suggestion drew a roar of approval, and in a minute suggestions went around the room like a prairie fire. After a half hour it was decided that four men would stage a fake raid on the bank the next afternoon, all with the bank's consent, make a dash for the hills, then circle around and come back. That would leave Luke searching for bandits he couldn't find, which would discourage him into immediate retirement. Details were worked out completely before the men left, laughing among themselves.

At three-thirty the next afternoon, a half hour before closing time, four men galloped up on horseback to the bank, slipped neckerchiefs over their faces, and held the place up. A grinning cashier passed them a sack full of money, and they left. The president waited fifteen minutes before giving the alarm; then, as he was about to run shouting into the street, four other masked men rode up waving six-shooters. They dashed into the bank and yelled that it was a stick-up.

The cashier gasped, "But . . . but you were just here!"

Bill Hodges yanked his mask off. "Whut're you talkin' about? We just got here!"

The bank president, white and shaking, said, "You—you mean that it wasn't you fellows who just staged a holdup? Then we've really been robbed! Oh, this is terrible!"

For a minute there was utter confusion; then in desperate haste the entire group ran for the sheriff's office. But there they found Luke's office locked and a sign tacked above it reading, GONE FISHING. Bill grabbed a boy who was sitting on the hitching post. "The sheriff—when did he leave?"

The boy shrugged. "While back, I guess. He'll be home come sundown."

Somebody groaned in anguish. What fools they'd been! They were so shaken that they couldn't even organize a posse to go after the bandits, and with the head start they had, it wouldn't do any good anyway.

Luke Morley saw the dust cloud before he saw the riders. He'd lived long enough on the range to know that men wouldn't run their horses to death unless they had a good reason for it. Instinctively, he drew in his line from the muddy creek and stepped behind the boulder where his horse was tethered.

The four horsemen came around the hillside and reined to a stop at the edge of the creek. Their horses glistened with sweat; the men were yellow with dust. Luke's eyes were still good. The moment he saw the leader he recognized him from the pictures on the wanted posters—Greg Hardy, escaped convict, outlaw and killer! Luke felt like kicking himself. Here he was without a gun and a notorious bandit right in front of him!

As the men dismounted to water their horses, one of them laughed. "Right nice of those folks to give us all that money! Imagine, gonna stage a fake holdup to show up the sheriff! Good thing I was outside listening in to whut was goin' on. Bet they're fit to be tied!"

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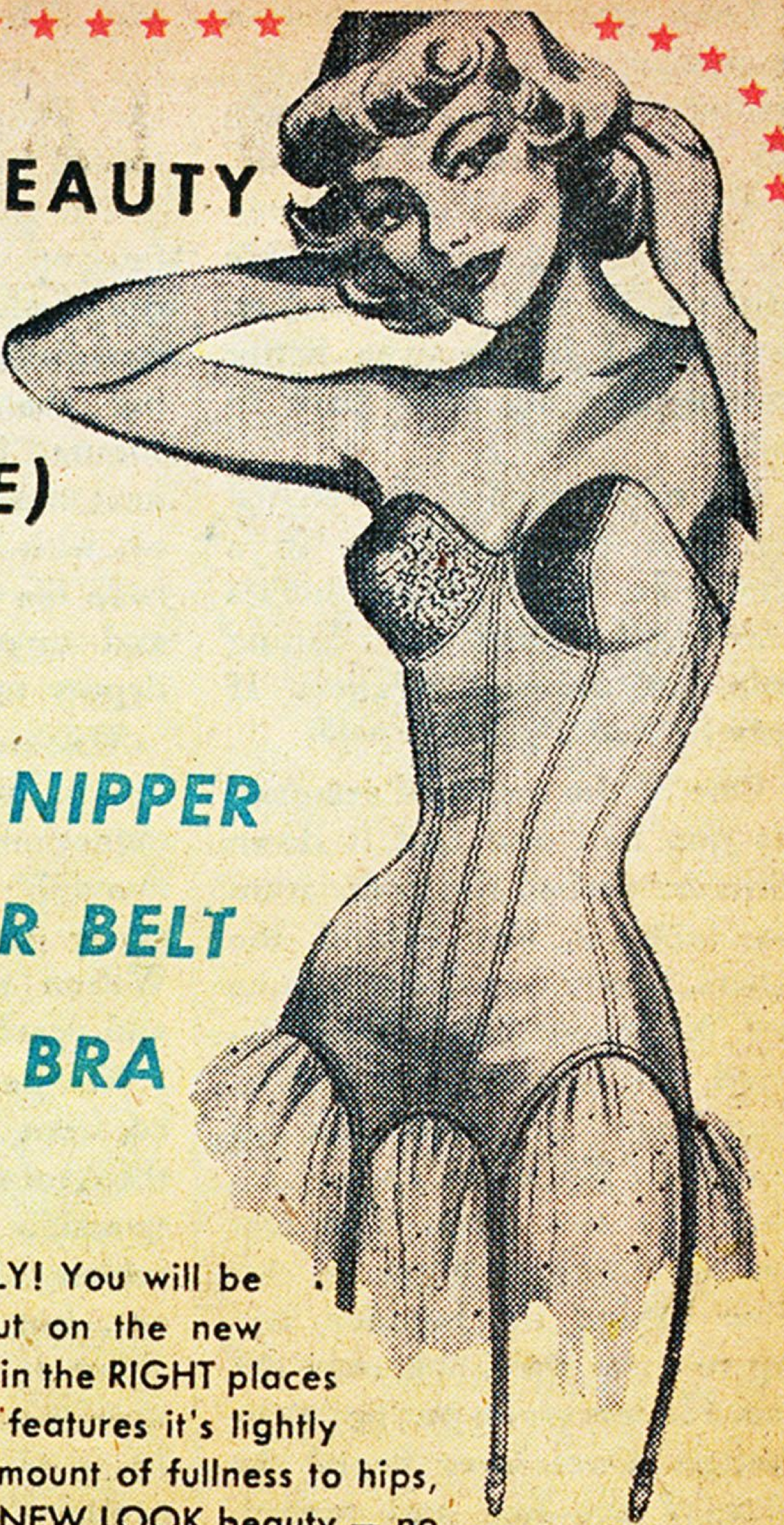

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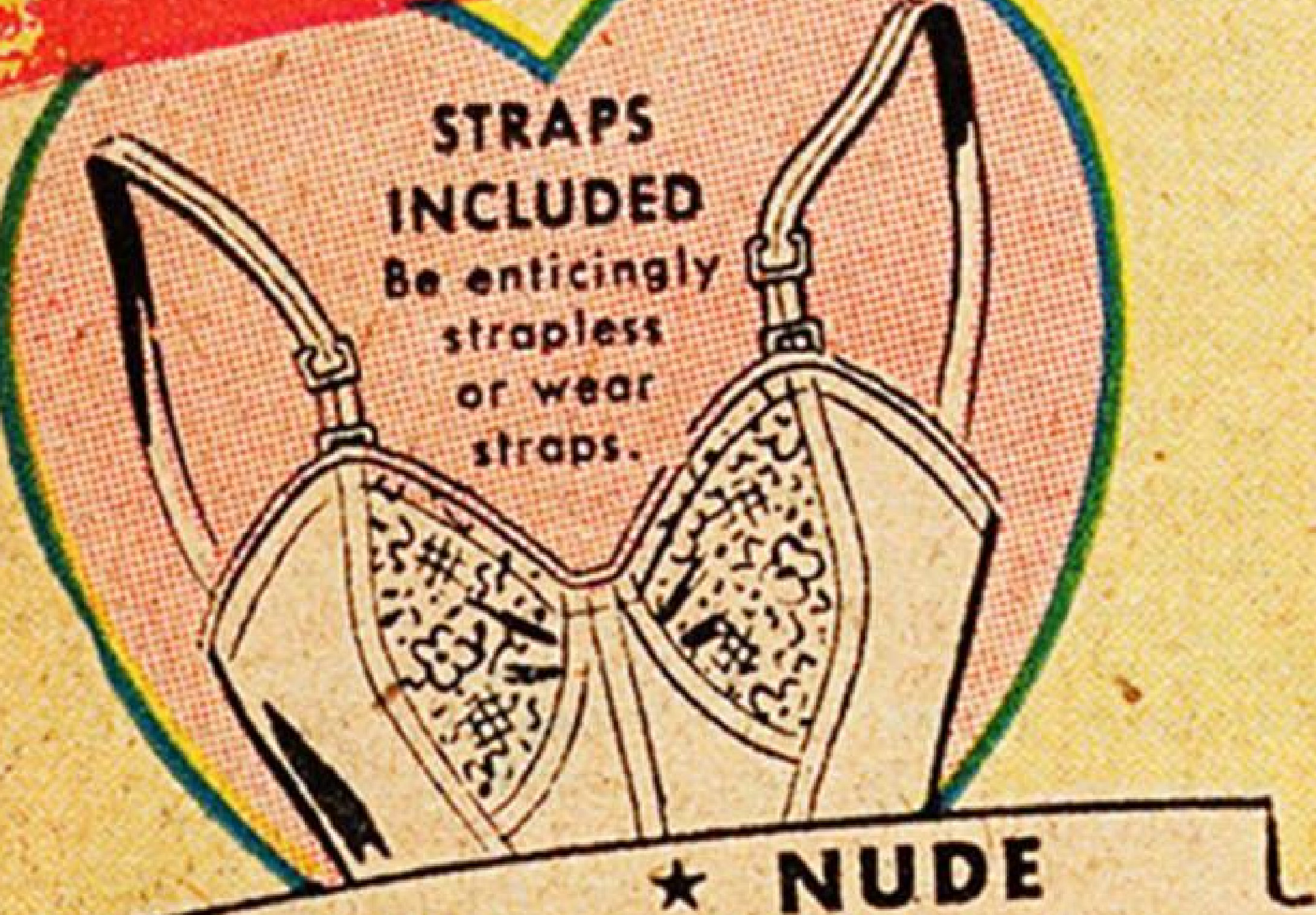
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Luke grasped the situation immediately. At first he felt like letting them get away to teach his so-called friends a lesson, but he'd been sheriff too long. He had to get the bandits. He grinned at the thought. Yes, that would be an even better lesson—bringing them back to jail!

His mind raced as he watched the four men sit down in a semicircle while their horses drank. All he had was a fishing pole, an unlikely weapon. If only he had a gun!

One of the men had removed his gun belt and laid it down while he washed the grime from his face. It was behind the others, barely out of sight. Luke saw his opportunity, then decided to chance it. Slowly, soundlessly, he reeled out his line, then flipped it, casting toward the two guns. The cast was short. Three times he cast from behind the boulder, trying to drop the hook over the gun. He was close, but not close enough. Once Greg heard the buzz of the line and turned. Luke froze until Greg shrugged and turned back, never noticing the string running out to the boulder.

The man at the stream was almost finished. Luke knew that he had but a moment longer. He judged the distance carefully, then threw his line. Like a moth alighting, the hook settled over the trigger guard of the gun. It took all of Luke's patience to reel it in slowly. When he had but a few feet more to go, the man at the creek turned. His eyes bulged, and he shouted. The other three men made a dive for their guns, but Luke was faster.

He scooped up the six-shooter in a lightning-like motion. "Hold it, gents! Just get those paws toward the sky." He came from behind the boulder, his gun steady, and disarmed the men. Their eyes were unbelieving when they saw his star, for they thought nobody could have trailed them this fast.

The sun was nearly on the horizon when Luke entered the town. Ahead of him, four men were bound to their horses, leading the procession. Someone shouted in amazement, and the next moment the road was choked with people. Luke Morley rode his captives up to the jail and turned them over to his deputy to lock up.

Wilson, the bank president, looked on in amazement. "The money — did you get the money?" Luke grinned and tossed it disdainfully at his feet. Wilson scooped it up quickly and nearly bawled with joy.

The people in the crowd looked from Luke to his prisoners, then to the men who were responsible for rigging the phony robbery. Nobody could figure it out, but they wanted to hear about it. But even then, they were too ashamed to speak up. In a way they were awfully proud of their sheriff, although they didn't say so. They edged around, waiting for someone to speak.

Of all the red faces around Luke, Bill Hodges' was probably the reddest. He said, "Er, Luke — these bandits — how'd you catch 'em?"

The sheriff looked around him. Maybe it would be better if the townspeople didn't know all about it. He shrugged eloquently. Bill stammered, "But your sign—it said you went fishing. I don't . . ."

Luke interrupted him with a laugh. "I didn't say whut I went fishing *for*, did I? Got a good catch though!" The red faces all broke into grins. Yep, there was no doubt about who was still going to be sheriff for a long, long time in this here town!

THE END SL—4287

STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, CIRCULATION, ETC., REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF CONGRESS OF AUGUST 24, 1912, AS AMENDED BY THE ACTS OF MARCH 3, 1933, AND JULY 2, 1946

of The Human Torch published Bimonthly at Meriden, Conn., for October 1, 1948.

State of New York }
County of New York } ss.

Before me, a Notary Public in and for the State and county aforesaid, personally appeared Robert Solomon, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is the Business Manager of the The Human Torch and that the following is, to the best of his knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management (and if a daily, weekly, semiweekly or triweekly newspaper, the circulation), etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the act of August 24, 1912, as amended by the acts of March 3, 1933, and July 2, 1946 (section 537, Postal Laws and Regulations), printed on the reverse of this form, to wit:

1. That the names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are: Publisher, Cornell Publishing Corp., 350 5th Avenue, New York 1, N. Y.; Editor, Stan Lee, 350 5th Avenue, New York 1, N. Y.; Managing Editor, Martin Goodman, 350 5th Avenue, New York 1, N. Y.; Business Manager, Robert Solomon, 350 5th Avenue, New York 1, N. Y.

2. That the owner is: (If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding one percent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a firm, company, or other unincorporated concern, its name and address, as well as those of each individual member, must be given.)

Cornell Publishing Corp., 350 5th Avenue, New York 1, N. Y.; Martin Goodman, 350 5th Avenue, New York 1, N. Y.; Jean Goodman, 350 5th Avenue, New York 1, N. Y.

3. That the known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: (If there are none, so state.)

None.

4. That the two paragraphs next above, giving the names of the owners, stockholders, and security holders, if any, contain not only the list of stockholders and security holders as they appear upon the books of the company but also, in cases where the stockholder or security holder appears upon the books of the company as trustee or in any other fiduciary relation, the name of the person or corporation for whom such trustee is acting, is given; also that the said two paragraphs contain statements embracing affiant's full knowledge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions under which stockholders and security holders who do not appear upon the books of the company as trustees, hold stock and securities in a capacity other than that of a bona fide owner; and this affiant has no reason to believe that any other person, association, or corporation has any interest direct or indirect in the said stock, bonds, or other securities than as so stated by him.

5. That the average number of copies of each issue of this publication sold or distributed, through the mails or otherwise, to paid subscribers during the twelve months preceding the date shown above is .. .. (This information is required from daily, weekly, semiweekly, and triweekly newspapers only.)

(Signed) ROBERT SOLOMON.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 9th day of September, 1948.

(SEAL) SYLVIA FIEGEN.
(My commission expires March 30, 1949.)

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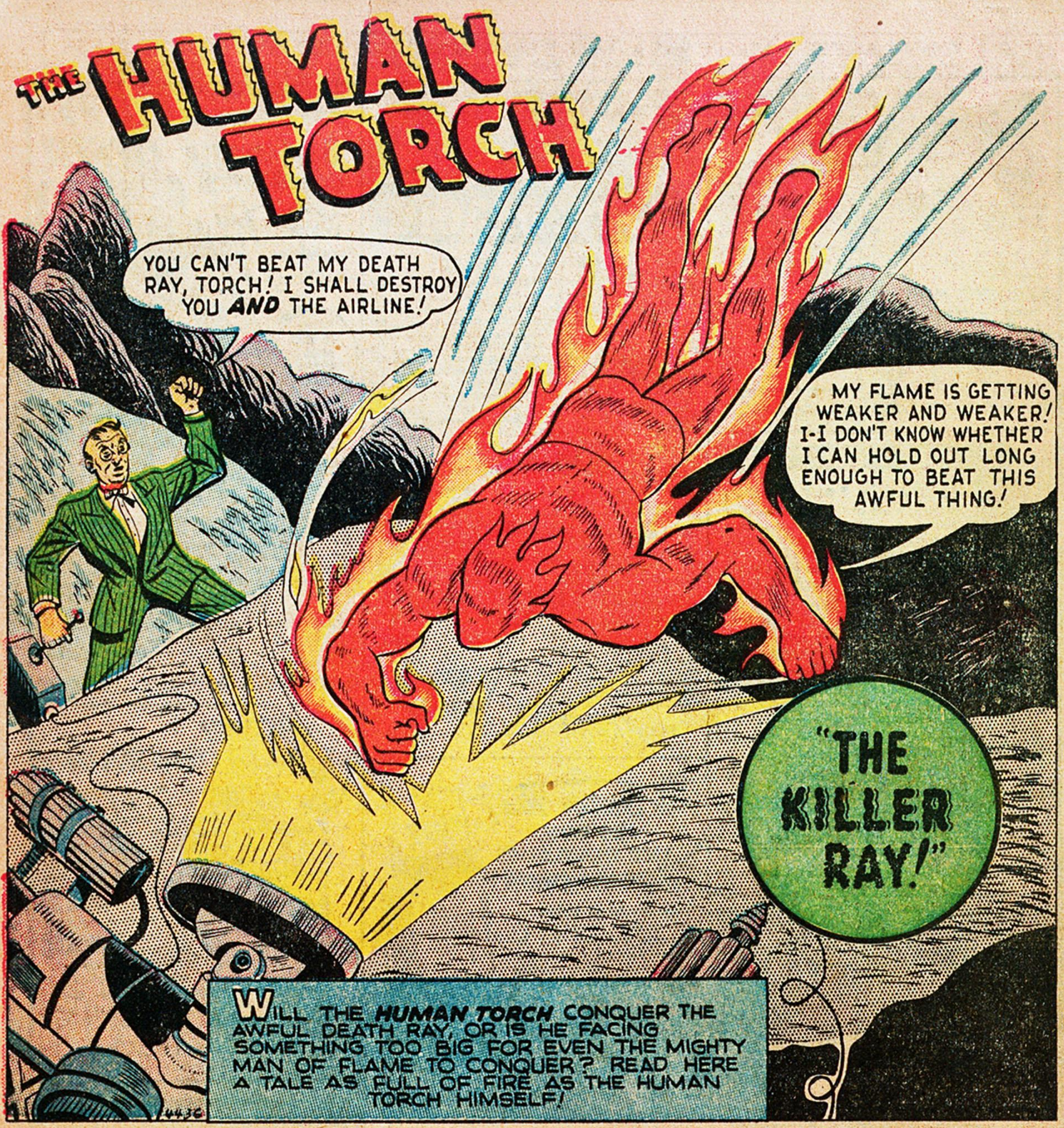
THE HUMAN TORCH


YOU CAN'T BEAT MY DEATH RAY, TORCH! I SHALL DESTROY YOU **AND** THE AIRLINE!
MY FLAME IS GETTING WEAKER AND WEAKER! I-I DON'T KNOW WHETHER I CAN HOLD OUT LONG ENOUGH TO BEAT THIS AWFUL THING!
4436

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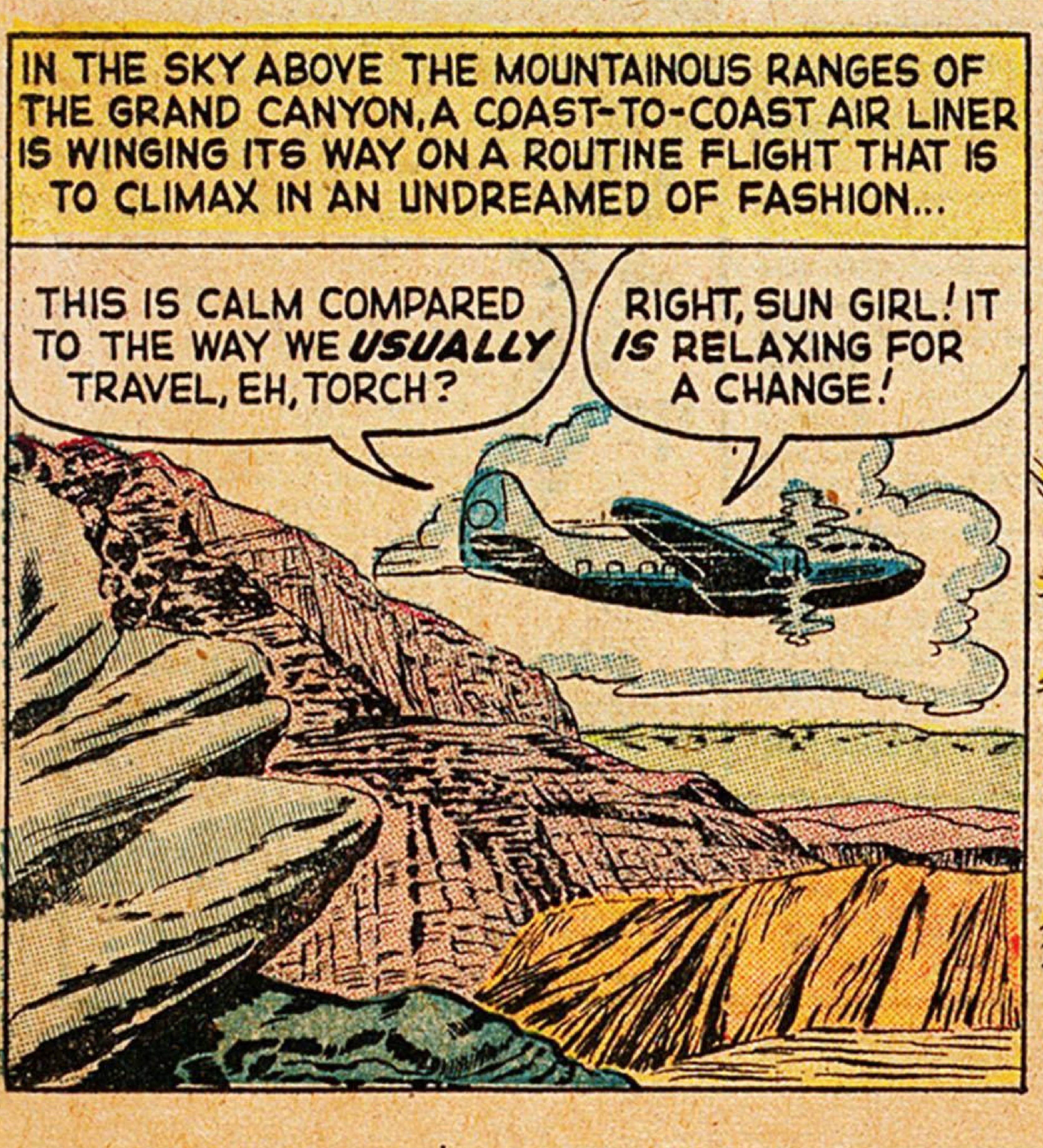
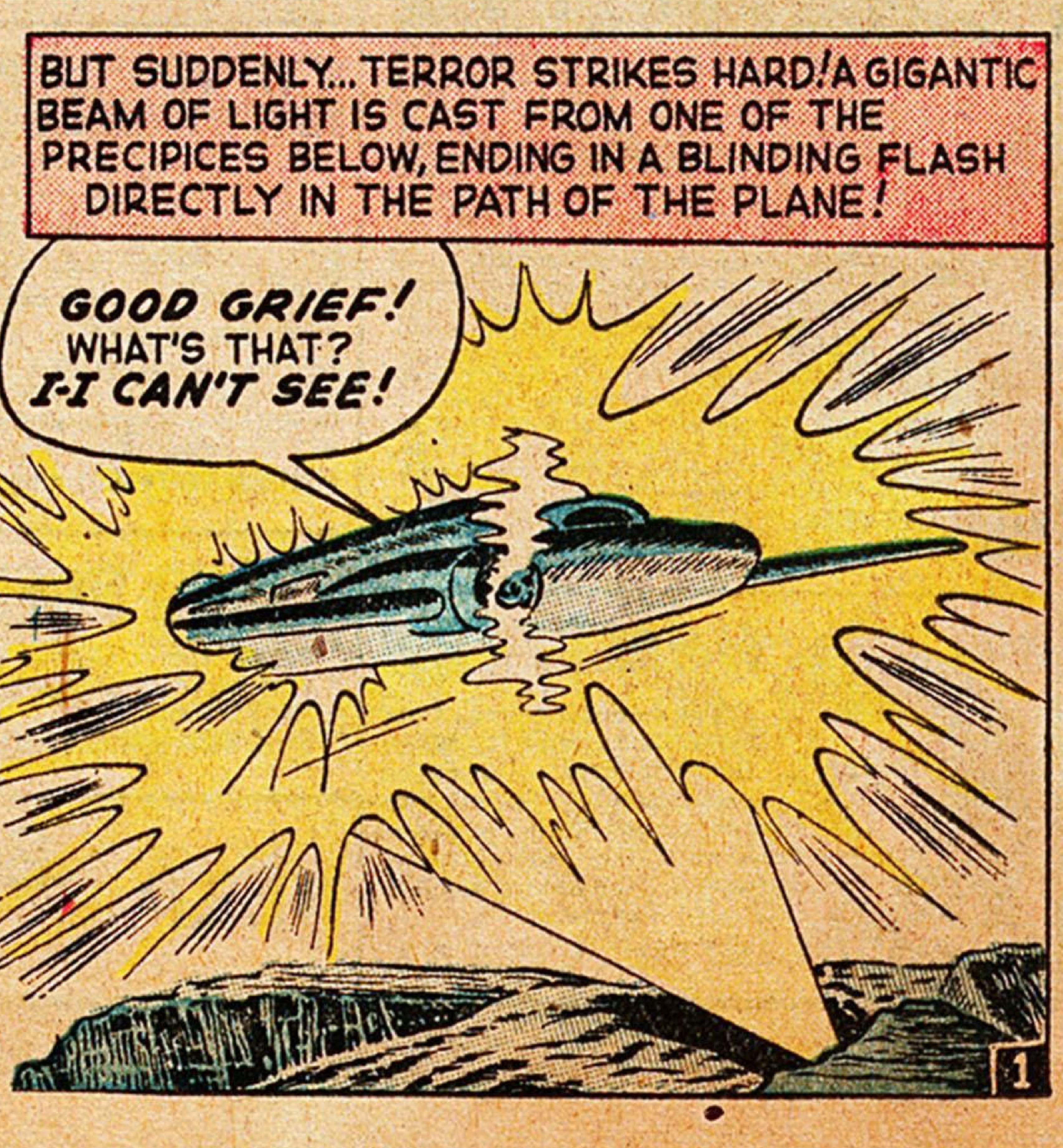
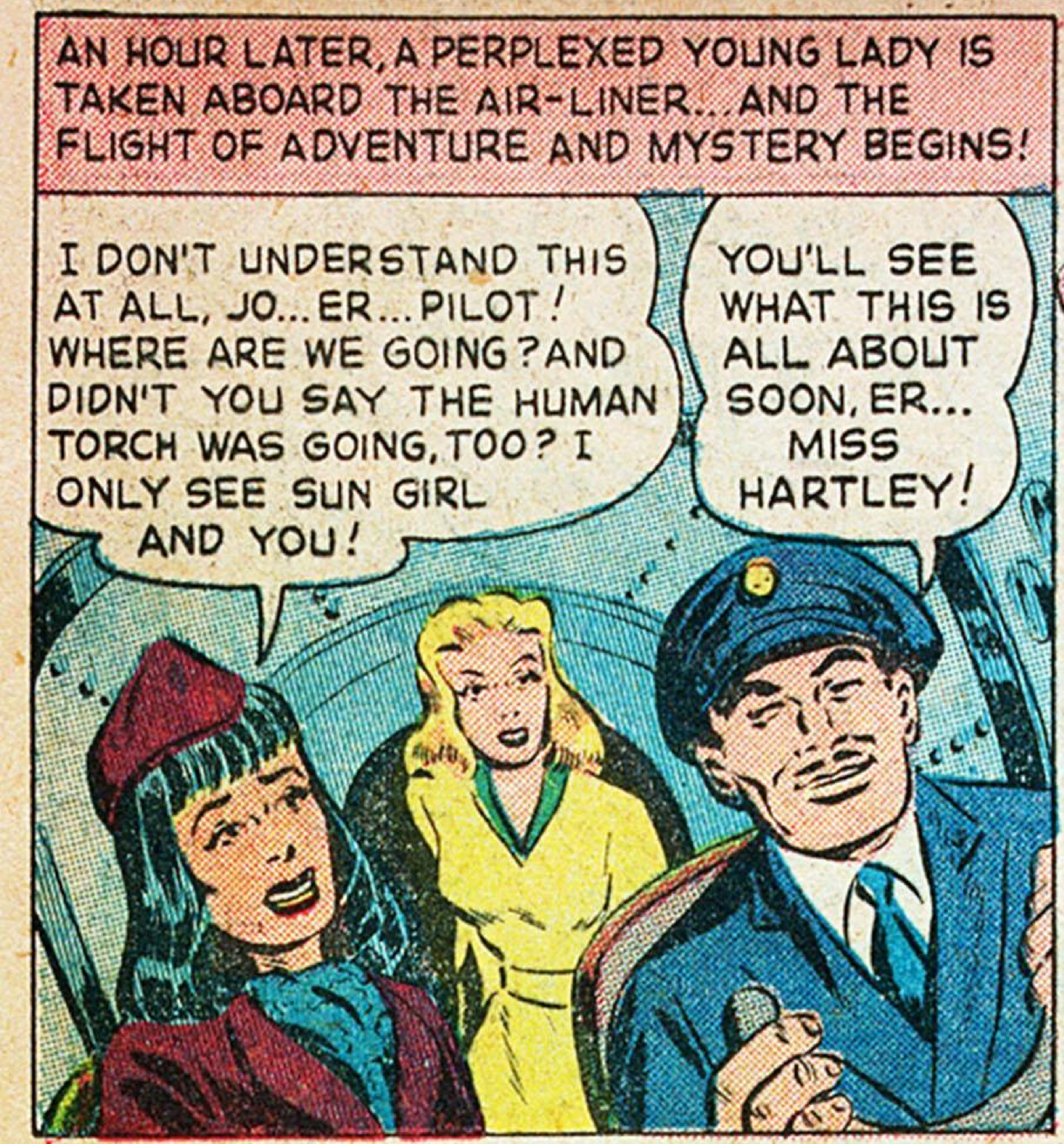

THIS IS CALM COMPARED TO THE WAY WE ***USUALLY*** TRAVEL, EH, TORCH?
RIGHT, SUN GIRL! IT ***IS*** RELAXING FOR A CHANGE!

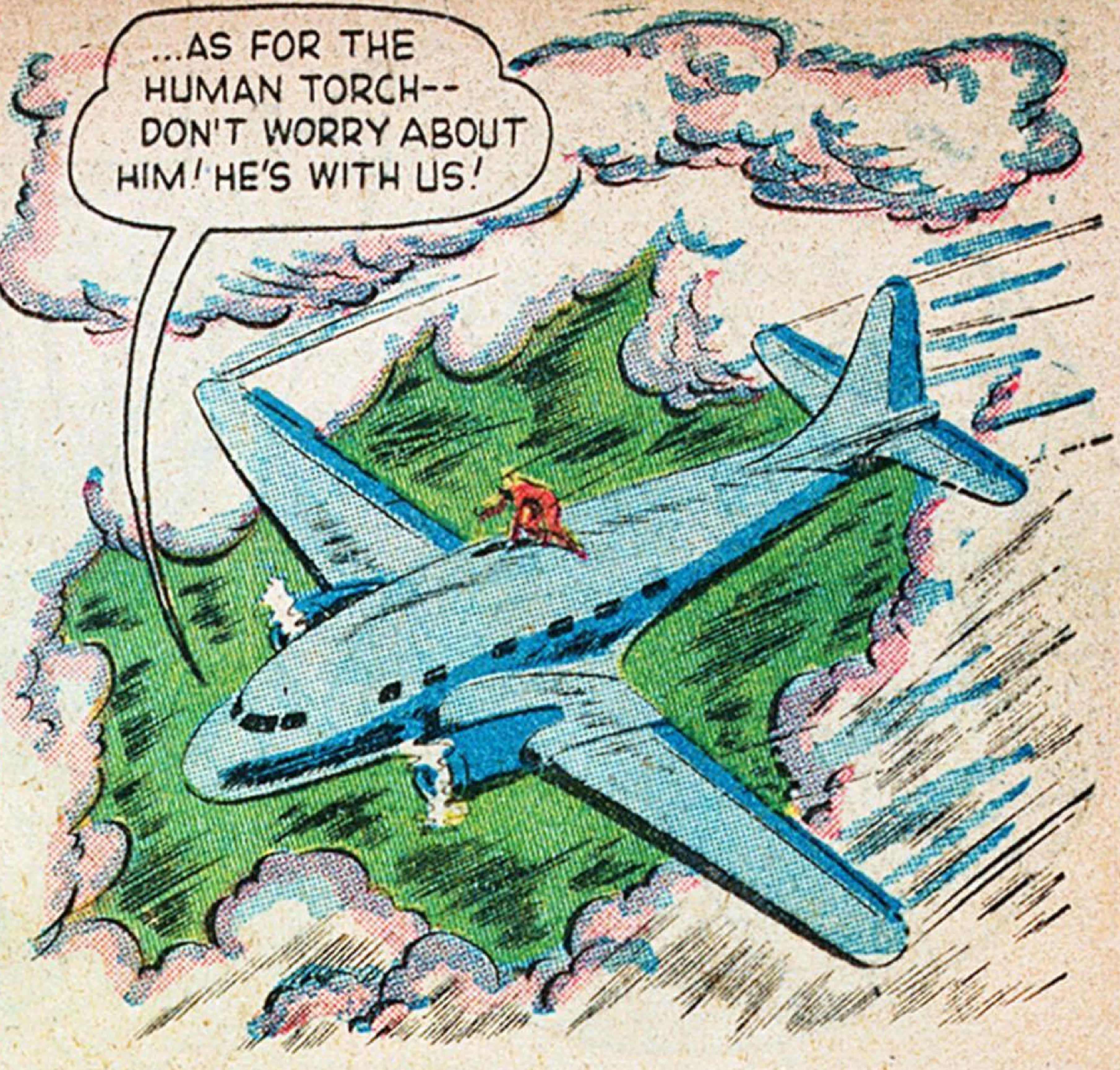
BUT SUDDENLY... TERROR STRIKES HARD! A GIGANTIC BEAM OF LIGHT IS CAST FROM ONE OF THE PRECIPICES BELOW, ENDING IN A BLINDING FLASH DIRECTLY IN THE PATH OF THE PLANE!

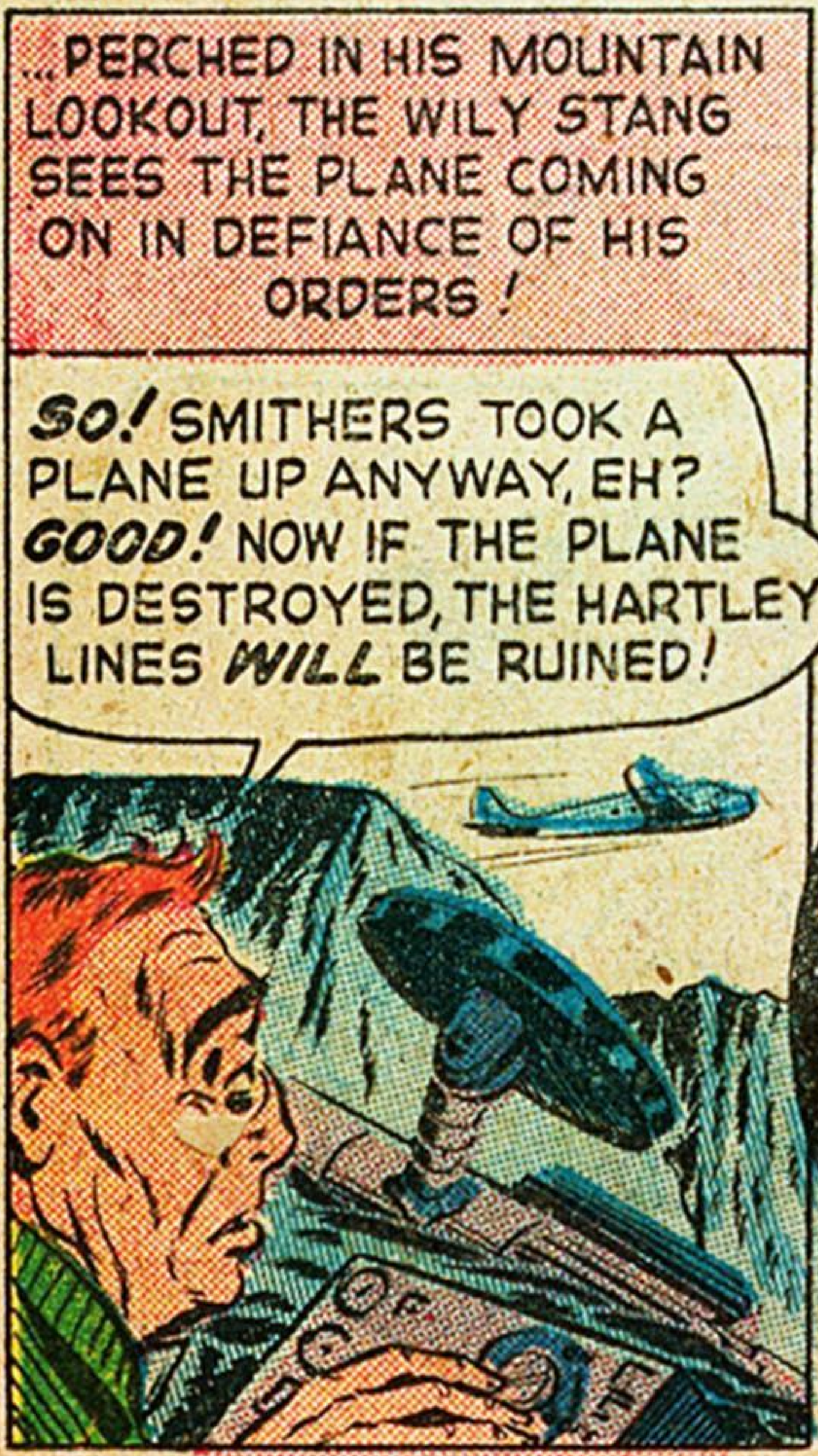

GOOD GRIEF! WHAT'S THAT? ***I-I CAN'T SEE!***

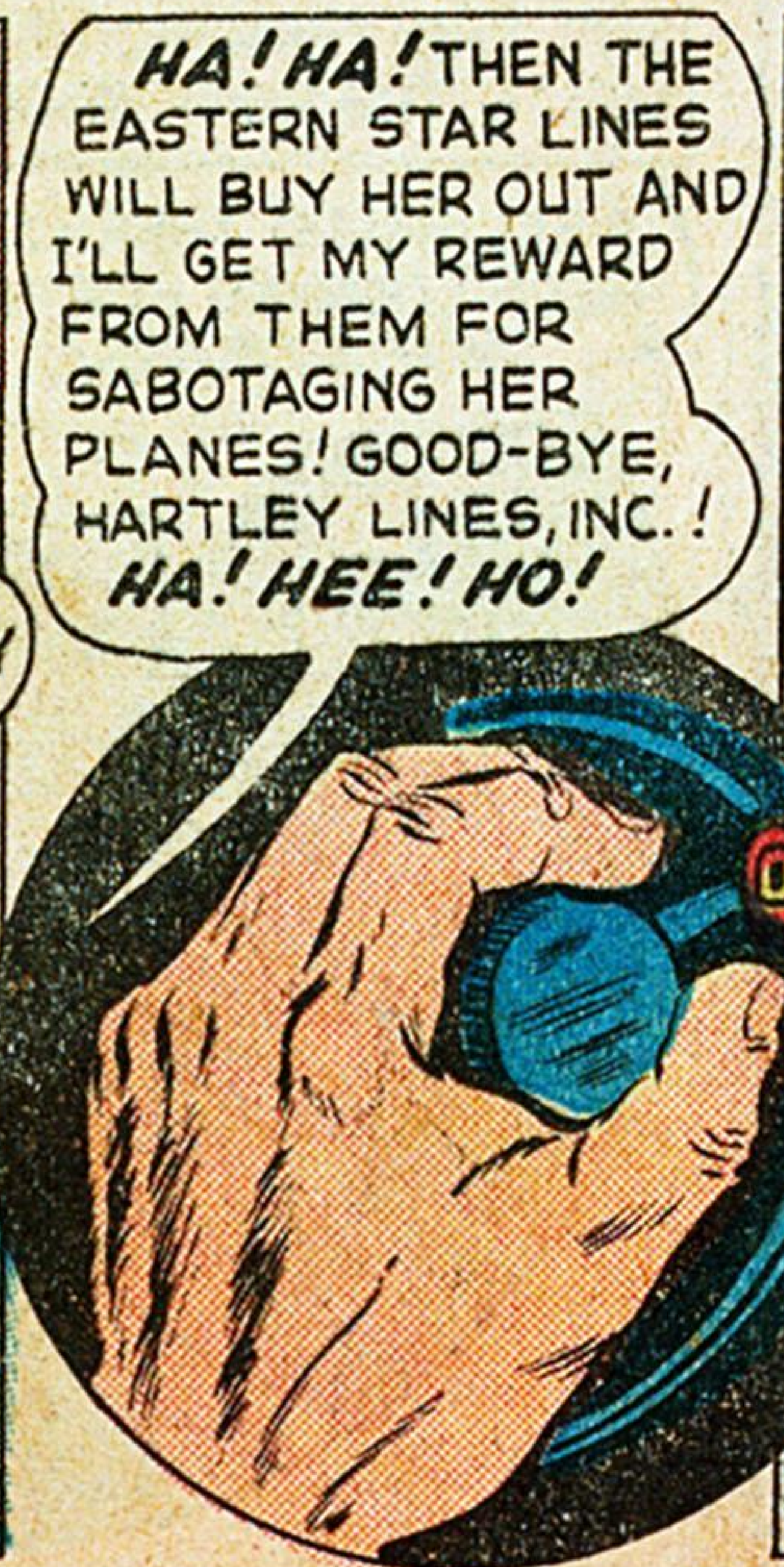
WHAT IS IT, PILOT?
THE PLANE'S OUT OF CONTROL! I CAN'T HANDLE IT!
THERE WAS A BLINDING FLASH... LIKE HEAT LIGHTNING! IT AFFECTED THE MECHANISM!
LIKE SOME GREAT TORTURED BEAST THE HELPLESS PLANE TWISTS AND TURNS IN THE AIR, SPEEDING TOWARD INEVITABLE DISASTER...WHILE DOWN BELOW...
HA! PERFECT! PERFECT! MY HEAT-RAY IS A SUCCESS!
HEAT MEANS FIRE! FIRE MEANS THE HUMAN TORCH! FIGHT FIRE WITH FIRE! FLAME ON!
GO TO IT, TORCH! AND HURRY!
THE MIGHTY MAN OF FIRE BURSTS INTO A MASS OF LIVID FLAMES IN AN EFFORT TO SAVE LIVES!
TORCH FLIES AROUND TO THE REAR OF THE SHIP AND GRABS ITS TAIL, FORMING A HUMAN JET-PROPULSION!
WHEW! THERE'S ALWAYS A WAY TO DO THINGS, THANK GOODNESS!
WE'RE SAVED! NOW I CAN LAND THE SHIP SAFELY!
THE HUMAN TORCH! WHY DID HE HAVE TO BE ON THAT PLANE? OF ALL THE ROTTEN LUCK! WELL...NEXT TIME I WON'T FAIL! NOW I'D BETTER GET BACK TO THE OFFICE!
A WHILE LATER, TORCH LANDS THE PLANE SAFELY AT THE NEAREST AIRPORT!
GIVE US A STATEMENT, TORCH! WHAT HAPPENED?
I DON'T KNOW! THE PILOTS DON'T KNOW! THERE WAS A FLASH AND A BEAM FROM THE GROUND... AND THE PLANE WAS ALMOST DESTROYED IN MID-AIR!
YES... AND A MIGHTY LUCKY THING YOU WERE ON BOARD, TORCH!
THAT'S MY BOY!

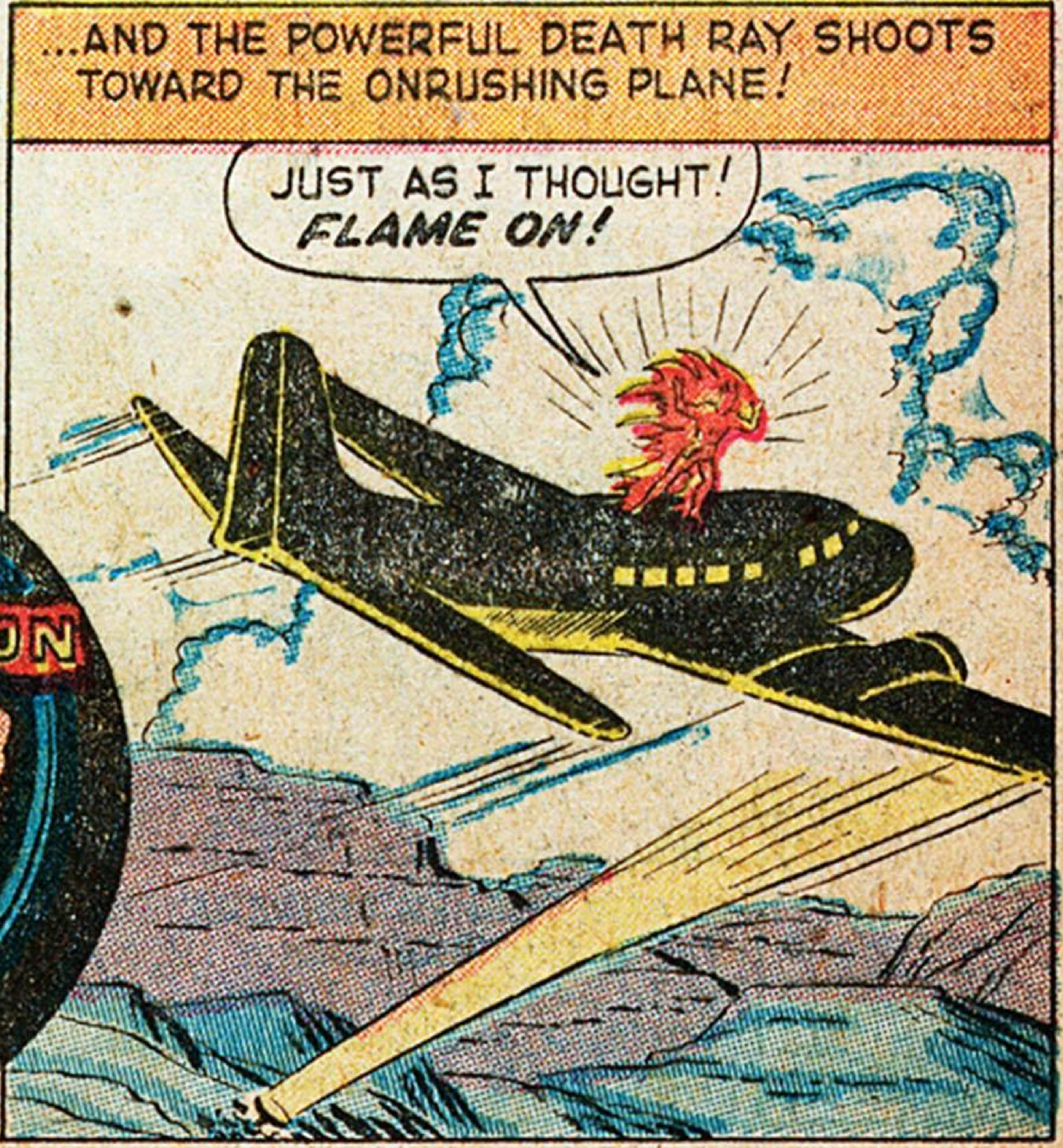
TORCH, I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR BRINGING OUR PLANE IN SAFELY!
OH-OH! IT'S THE OLD MAN--MR. STANG, VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE AIR-LINE IN CHARGE OF THIS AREA!
AN AMAZING THING TO HAPPEN--AN EXPLOSION LIKE THAT! MUST HAVE BEEN SOMETHING WRONG WITH THE MOTOR! I'M GOING TO GROUND **ALL OUR SHIPS** UNTIL WE DISCOVER THE CAUSE!
WHAT? IT WASN'T THE PLANE! THE FLASH CAME FROM THE **GROUND!**
TUT--TUT--YOUNG LADY! I'M AFRAID YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE **AIRPLANE** BUSINESS! A FLASH FROM THE GROUND! **RIDICULOUS!**
BUT, SIR, YOU KNOW THAT IF WE DON'T CARRY THROUGH OUR FLIGHTS FOR A WEEK, OUR LINE WILL GO **BANKRUPT!** IT'LL MEAN **DISASTER** FOR **MISS HARTLEY!**
YOUR SYMPATHY FOR THE ATTRACTIVE YOUNG OWNER OF THE LINE IS TOUCHING, SMITHERS...BUT **I'M STILL IN CHARGE OF OPERATIONS**--AND I'M **NOT** RISKING PASSENGERS' LIVES JUST BECAUSE OF LOVE'S YOUNG SWEET SONG! **THE** PLANES ARE **GROUNDED! GOOD-BYE!**
THIS WILL BREAK MAE'S HEART!
AND YOURS **TOO**, EH, PILOT?
YES, TORCH, IT WILL! I'M IN LOVE WITH MAE HARTLEY...ALTHOUGH SHE CAN'T SEE ME AT ALL! AND I'M AFRAID TO TELL HER HOW I FEEL...BECAUSE SHE MIGHT THINK IT'S HER OWNERSHIP OF THE LINES I'M INTERESTED IN! BUT I **DO** KNOW THE LINE HASN'T BEEN DOING WELL AT ALL...AND OUR OPERATING COSTS HAVE PILED UP EVER SINCE MR. STANG'S BEEN IN CHARGE! WELL, NOW SHE'LL LOSE THE COMPANY TO THE EASTERN STAR LINE WHICH HAS BEEN AFTER HER FRANCHISE FOR A LONG TIME! OH! THIS IS A MESS!
THAT DOES IT! I'VE GOT AN IDEA THAT I THINK WILL TAKE CARE OF EVERYTHING! LISTEN CAREFULLY...GET MISS HARTLEY OVER HERE AND PREPARE A SHIP FOR FLIGHT! WE'LL TAKE OFF IN AN HOUR!
WHAT? WE CAN'T DO THAT! YOU **HEARD** MR. STANG...
BETTER DO WHAT TORCH SAYS, SMITHERS! I THINK I SEE WHAT HE HAS IN MIND!
RIGHT, SUN GIRL! AND IF WHAT I SUSPECT IS TRUE, SMITHERS, I THINK I CAN GUARANTEE THE SUCCESS OF THE HARTLEY LINES...AND MAYBE HELP **YOU PERSONALLY!**
WELL! LET'S GO!
H-12

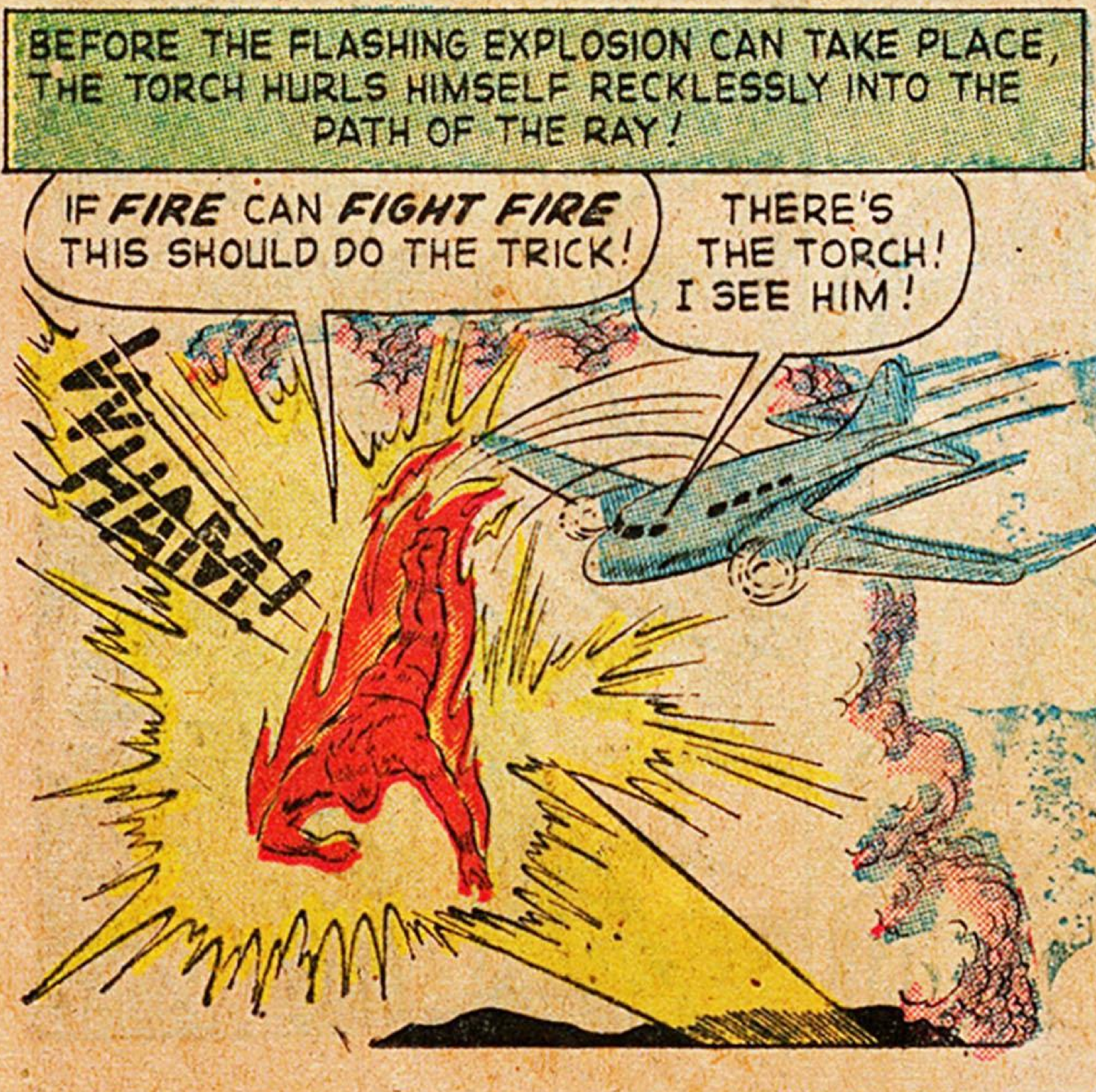

AN HOUR LATER, A PERPLEXED YOUNG LADY IS TAKEN ABOARD THE AIR-LINER... AND THE FLIGHT OF ADVENTURE AND MYSTERY BEGINS!
I DON'T UNDERSTAND THIS AT ALL, JO... ER... PILOT! WHERE ARE WE GOING? AND DIDN'T YOU SAY THE HUMAN TORCH WAS GOING, TOO? I ONLY SEE SUN GIRL AND YOU!
YOU'LL SEE WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT SOON, ER... MISS HARTLEY!

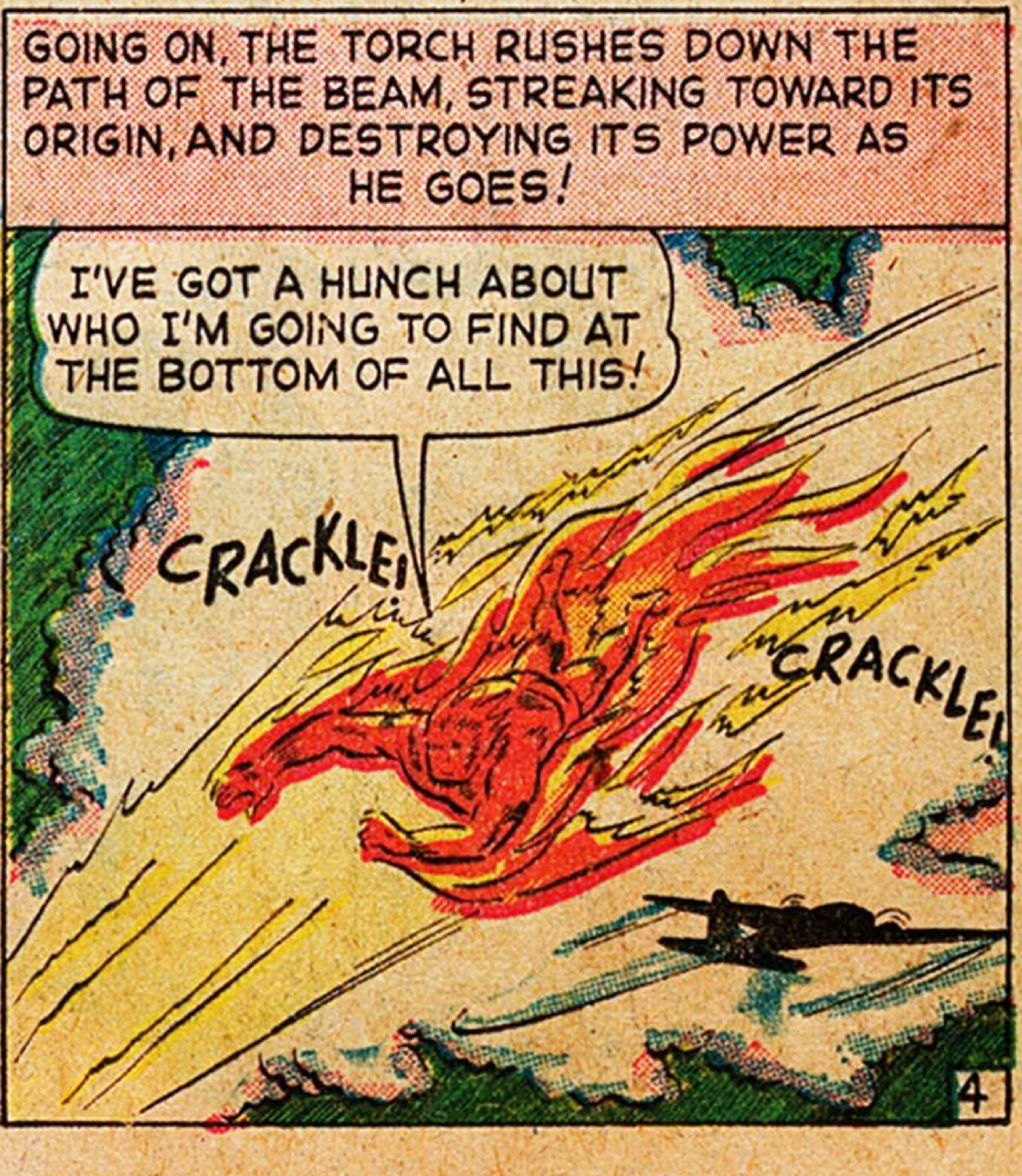

...AS FOR THE HUMAN TORCH-- DON'T WORRY ABOUT HIM! HE'S WITH US!


..PERCHED IN HIS MOUNTAIN LOOKOUT, THE WILY STANG SEES THE PLANE COMING ON IN DEFIANCE OF HIS ORDERS!
SO! SMITHERS TOOK A PLANE UP ANYWAY, EH? GOOD! NOW IF THE PLANE IS DESTROYED, THE HARTLEY LINES WILL BE RUINED!


HA! HA! THEN THE EASTERN STAR LINES WILL BUY HER OUT AND I'LL GET MY REWARD FROM THEM FOR SABOTAGING HER PLANES! GOOD-BYE, HARTLEY LINES, INC.! HA! HEE! HO!
ON


...AND THE POWERFUL DEATH RAY SHOOTS TOWARD THE ONRUSHING PLANE!
JUST AS I THOUGHT! FLAME ON!


BEFORE THE FLASHING EXPLOSION CAN TAKE PLACE, THE TORCH HURLS HIMSELF RECKLESSLY INTO THE PATH OF THE RAY!
IF FIRE CAN FIGHT FIRE THIS SHOULD DO THE TRICK!
THERE'S THE TORCH! I SEE HIM!
WHAAM!


GOING ON, THE TORCH RUSHES DOWN THE PATH OF THE BEAM, STREAKING TOWARD ITS ORIGIN, AND DESTROYING ITS POWER AS HE GOES!
I'VE GOT A HUNCH ABOUT WHO I'M GOING TO FIND AT THE BOTTOM OF ALL THIS!
CRACKLE!
CRACKLE!

IT'S THE TORCH AGAIN! HE'S SPOILING EVERYTHING! LET ME OUT OF HERE--BUT QUICK!
WITH A TREMENDOUS EXPLOSION, THE TORCH LANDS FLUSH AGAINST STANG'S WICKED MECHANISM, SMASHING IT TO SMITHEREENS!
SO MUCH FOR THAT!
BAROOM!
WHEW! THAT TOOK A LOT OUT OF ME! NOW...WHERE'S THE LITTLE BRAIN WHO SCHEMED UP ALL THIS?
DIE, TORCH! DIE AND STAY OUT OF MY WAY... FOREVER!
STANG PUSHES DESPERATELY AT THE BALANCING ROCK... THEN, WITH A GROAN, IT TOPPLES TOWARD THE UNSUSPECTING MAN OF FLAME...
BUT THE TERRIFIC HEAT OF TORCH'S BODY MELTS THE ROCK WHILE IT'S STILL IN MID-AIR!
WELL, HELLO THERE! I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU, MR. STANG!
CAN NOTHING STOP YOU, YOU...YOU... YOU HEATWAVE?
YOU'LL NEVER GET ME! I'LL JUMP OFF THIS CLIFF! I'LL KILL MYSELF!
GOING SOMEPLACE?
EEEH! NO! NOT YOU AGAIN!
THERE ARE A FEW THINGS YOU'LL HAVE TO EXPLAIN FIRST!
POW!

A WHILE LATER, AT THE AIRPORT...
JOE... I MEAN... PILOT, WILL YOU *PLEASE* TELL ME WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT?
YOU'LL HAVE TO WAIT FOR THE HUMAN TORCH, MAE... I MEAN, MISS...
SUDDENLY... THE AIR IS PIERCED WITH A SCREAMING YELP!
YEOW!
GOODNESS! WHAT'S THAT?
...AND OVER THE HORIZON COMES STANG PURSUED BY THE HUMAN TORCH WHO IS USING HIS OWN METHOD OF HURRYING HIM ON!
YIPE! OW! HELP!
FASTER, MR. STANG, FASTER!
FEAR... AND LOVE... DRIVE MAE HARTLEY INTO THE ARMS OF THE JOYFUL YOUNG PILOT!
HELP! OHHHHH! PILOT! ...I MEAN... JOE...
YES, MISS...? I--EH--MEAN... MAE!
OKAY.. TALK, STANG, OR YOU'LL GET MORE THAN JUST A HOT-FOOT!
ALL RIGHT! ONLY NO MORE FIRE, *PLEASE!* I TRIED TO DESTROY THE AIR-LINES SO I COULD CAUSE THEM TO GO BANKRUPT AND BE BOUGHT UP BY THE EASTERN STAR LINES! THEY OFFERED ME A JOB AS VICE-PRESIDENT IF I SUCCEEDED!
THE POLICE'LL BE INTERESTED IN THIS, STANG... AND THE NAME OF THE MAN AT EASTERN STAR WHO *WORKED* WITH YOU ON THE SCHEME!
C'MON, STANG, *LET'S GO!* YOU KNOW, SUN GIRL, I WONDER WHO'S GOING TO BE IN CHARGE OF THE HARTLEY LINES NOW?
I WOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT THAT, TORCH! LOOK BACK *THERE!*
I THINK THAT FROM NOW ON, MISS HARTLEY *AND* HER PLANES WILL BE SAFE ENOUGH!
THE END

STAMP NEWS

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By KENT B. STILES

One of philately's amazing developments during the past decade is the spectacular increase in the interest which collectors have manifested in first-day sales of United States stamps and the demand for first-day covers. Evidence of this growing popularity is to be found in the following statistical information:

In 1938 appeared the series of 32 stamps each bearing a portrait of a President. At the first-day sales of those 32 stamps, 7,970,732 copies were purchased. First-day covers cancelled totalled 2,146,082.

In 1940 was issued the series of 35 each presenting a likeness of a past "Famous American" associated with literature, education, science, music or art. Copies sold on first days totalled 13,706,604. There were 5,089,851 covers cancelled.

Now let us look at the 1948 picture. Final official figures are not available as these lines are being written, but estimate which approach accuracy are possible. Thirty stamps were placed on the 1948 program. This is two fewer than in the 1938 "Presidential" series and five fewer than in the 1940 "Famous Americans" group. Total stamps sold at 30 first-day ceremonies in 1948: approximately 29,000,000. Covers cancelled, about 12,000,000.

This year's twenty-first stamp is a 3c red issued on Oct. 4 to mark the tercentenary of the establishing of voluntary firemen's organizations in America – in 1648 when Peter Stuyvesant (1592-1672) was Dutch Governor of New Amsterdam (predecessor of New York). The design shows a portrait Stuyvesant flanked by a hand-operated fire pumper at left and a modern fire-engine at right.

The twenty-second is a 3c brown released on Oct. 15 to recall the settlement of today's Oklahoma by the Five Civilized Indian Tribes (Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Muscogee, Seminole) a century ago.

Twenty-third is a 3c issued on Oct. 27 for the semi-centennial of the formation of Theodore Roosevelt's Rough Riders in the Spanish-American War. Troop A was commanded by Capt. William Owen (Bucky) O'Neill, who was killed in the Battle of San Juan Hill in Cuba on July 1, 1898. The stamp's vignette pictures an equestrian statue of O'Neill in Phoenix, Ariz.

Twenty-fifth is a 3c green, released on Oct. 29, in honor of Juliette Gordon Low (1860-1927), who in 1912 founded the Girl Guides–today's Girl Scouts of America. A portrait of Mrs. Low, with the Girl Scout emblem at right, features the design.

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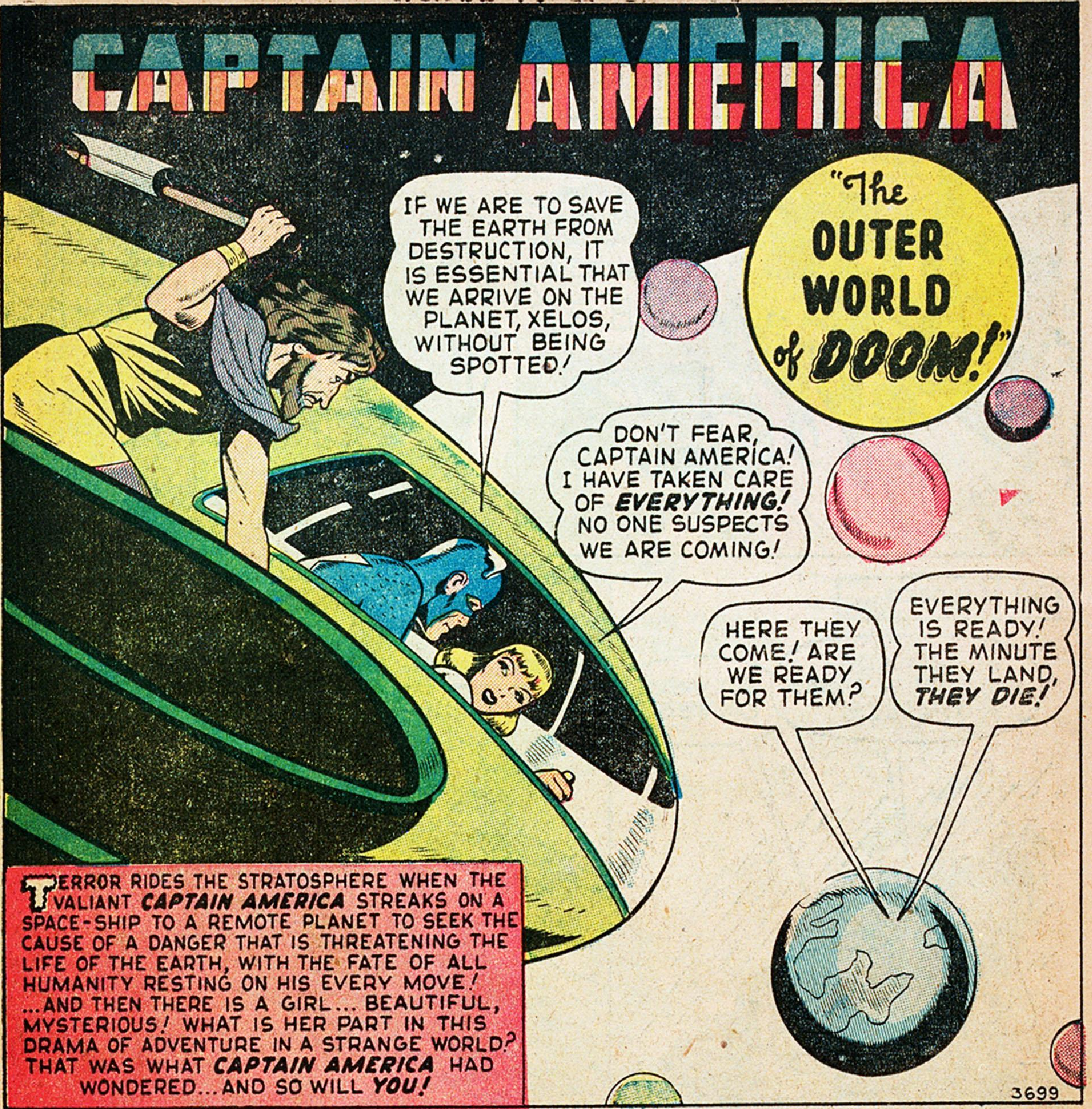
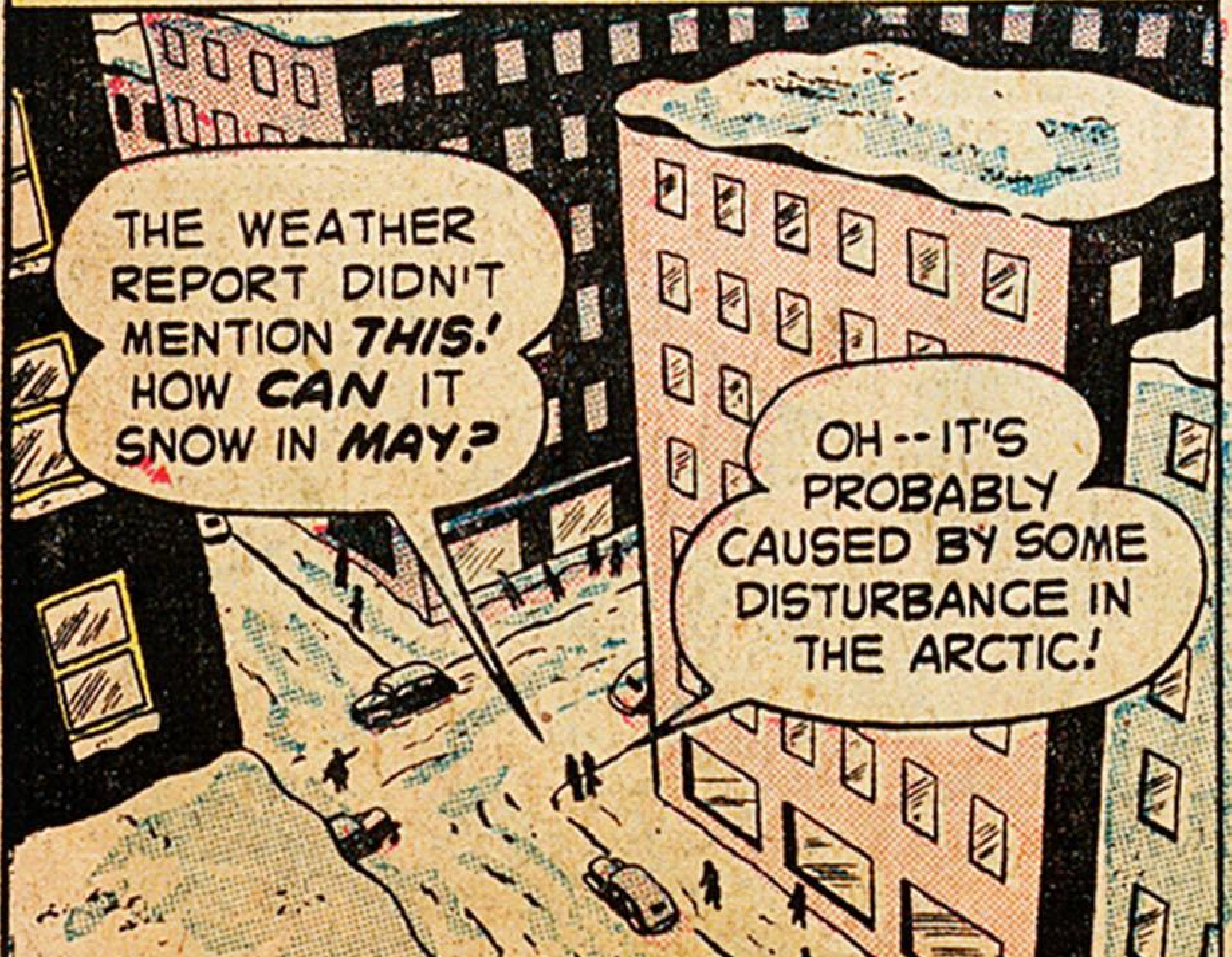
CAPTAIN AMERICA

"The OUTER WORLD of DOOM!"

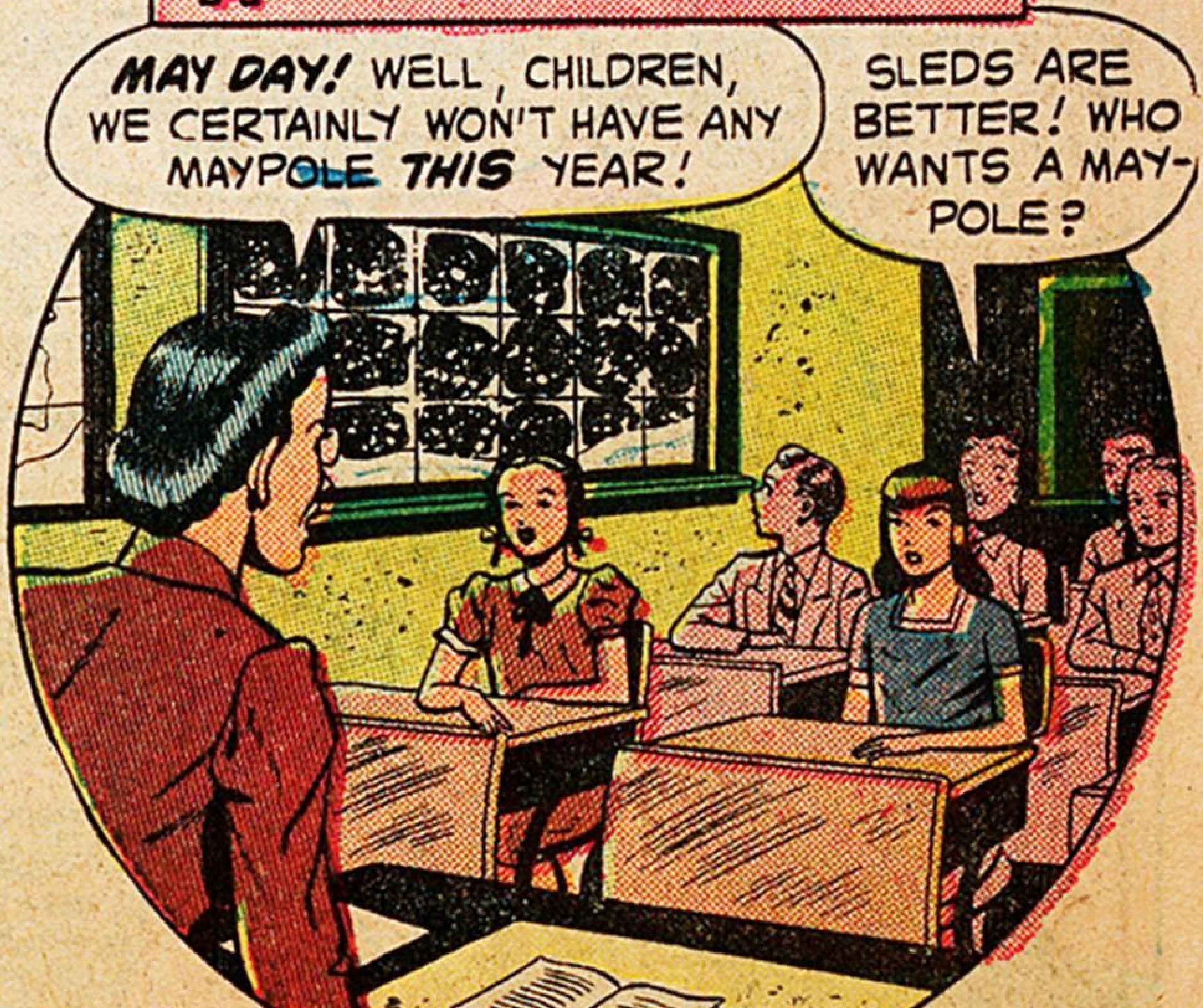

IF WE ARE TO SAVE THE EARTH FROM DESTRUCTION, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT WE ARRIVE ON THE PLANET, XELOS, WITHOUT BEING SPOTTED!
DON'T FEAR, CAPTAIN AMERICA! I HAVE TAKEN CARE OF ***EVERYTHING!*** NO ONE SUSPECTS WE ARE COMING!
HERE THEY COME! ARE WE READY FOR THEM?
EVERYTHING IS READY! THE MINUTE THEY LAND, ***THEY DIE!***
3699

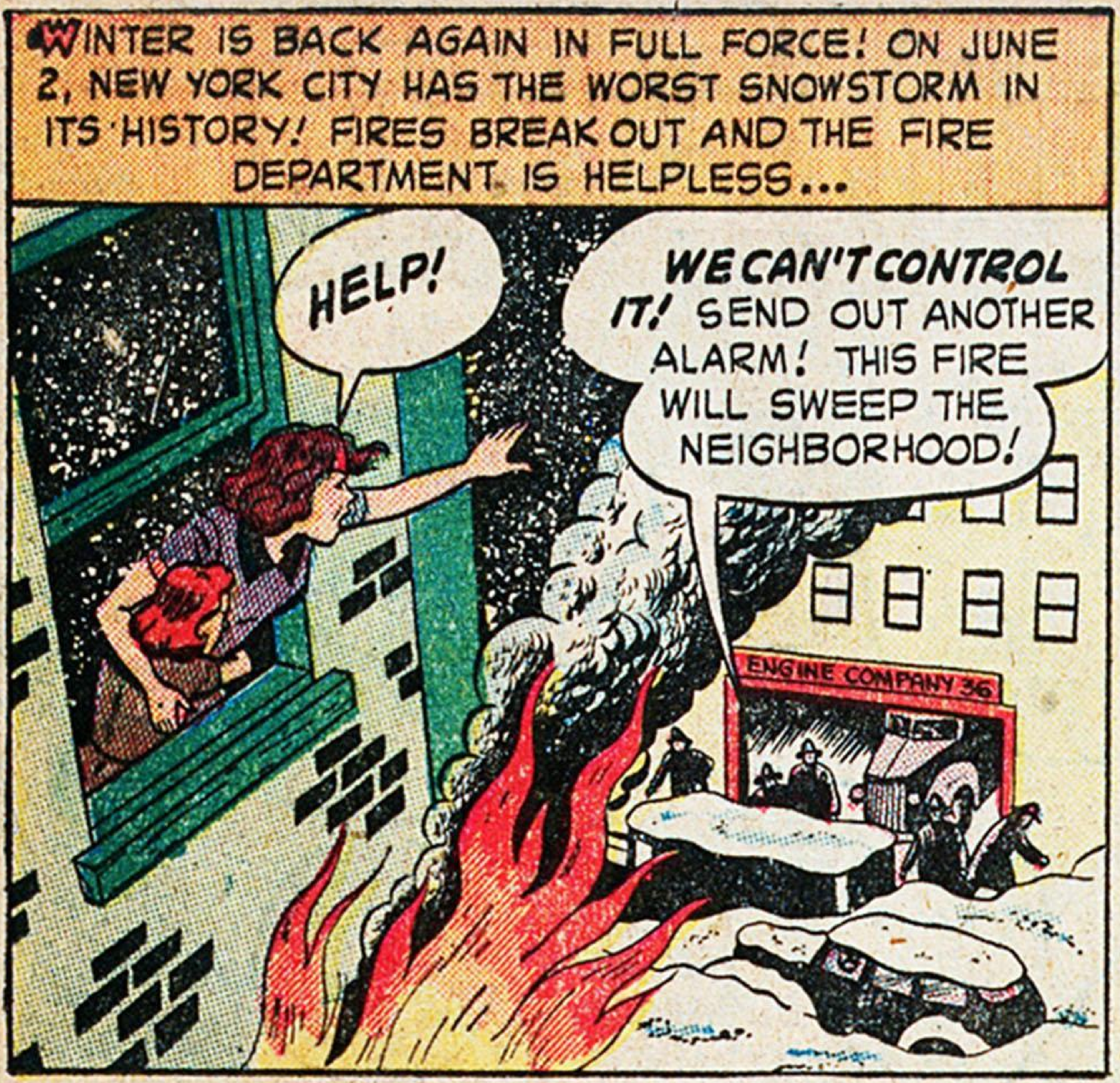
TERROR RIDES THE STRATOSPHERE WHEN THE VALIANT ***CAPTAIN AMERICA*** STREAKS ON A SPACE-SHIP TO A REMOTE PLANET TO SEEK THE CAUSE OF A DANGER THAT IS THREATENING THE LIFE OF THE EARTH, WITH THE FATE OF ALL HUMANITY RESTING ON HIS EVERY MOVE! ...AND THEN THERE IS A GIRL... BEAUTIFUL, MYSTERIOUS! WHAT IS HER PART IN THIS DRAMA OF ADVENTURE IN A STRANGE WORLD? THAT WAS WHAT ***CAPTAIN AMERICA*** HAD WONDERED... AND SO WILL ***YOU!***

THE CALENDAR SAYS IT'S MAY... BUT LOOK AT ***THIS!*** SNOW COVERS A GREAT CITY! SNOW... WHITE... BEAUTIFUL... BUT TERRIFYING!

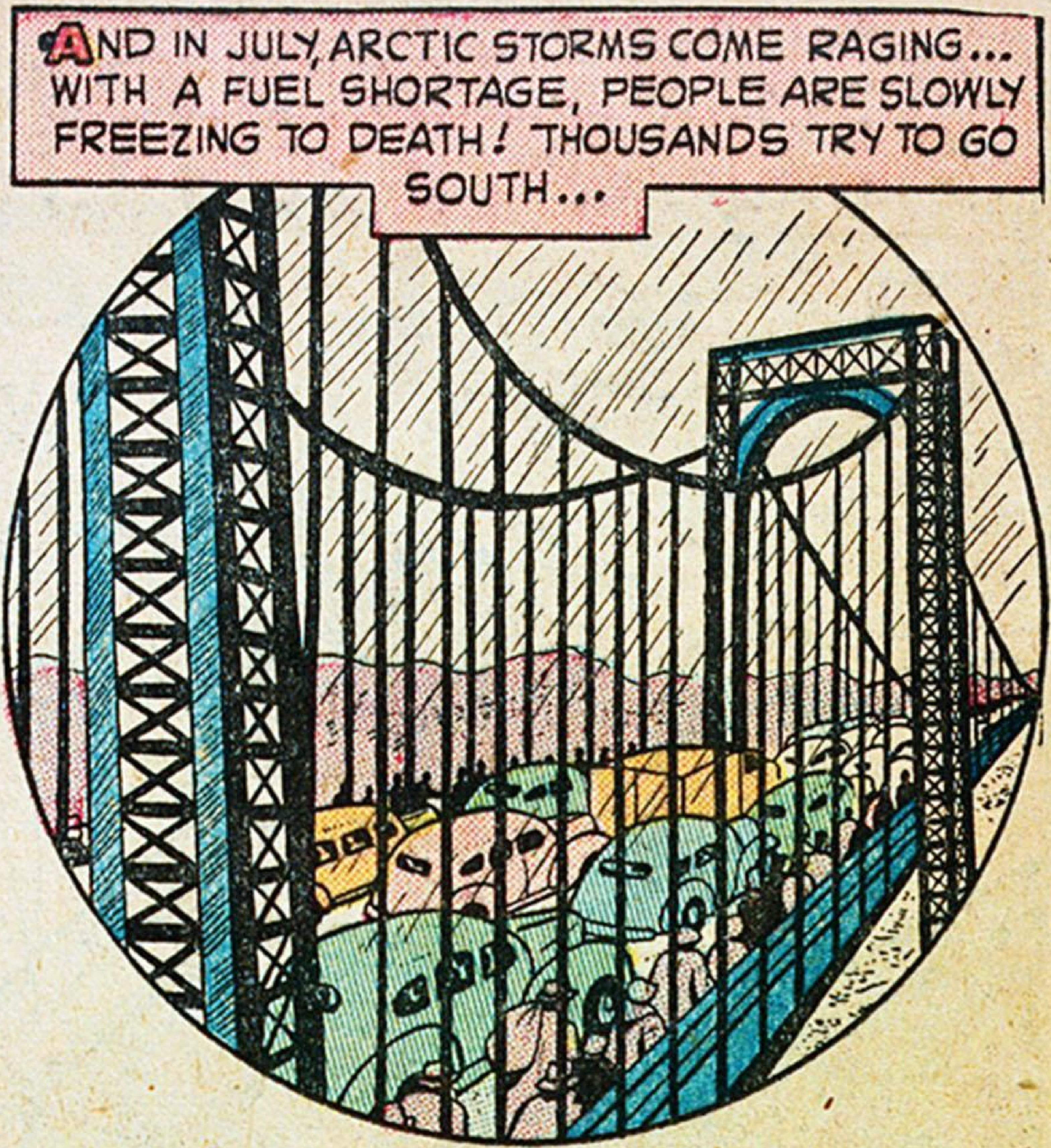

THE WEATHER REPORT DIDN'T MENTION ***THIS!*** HOW ***CAN*** IT SNOW IN ***MAY?***
OH -- IT'S PROBABLY CAUSED BY SOME DISTURBANCE IN THE ARCTIC!

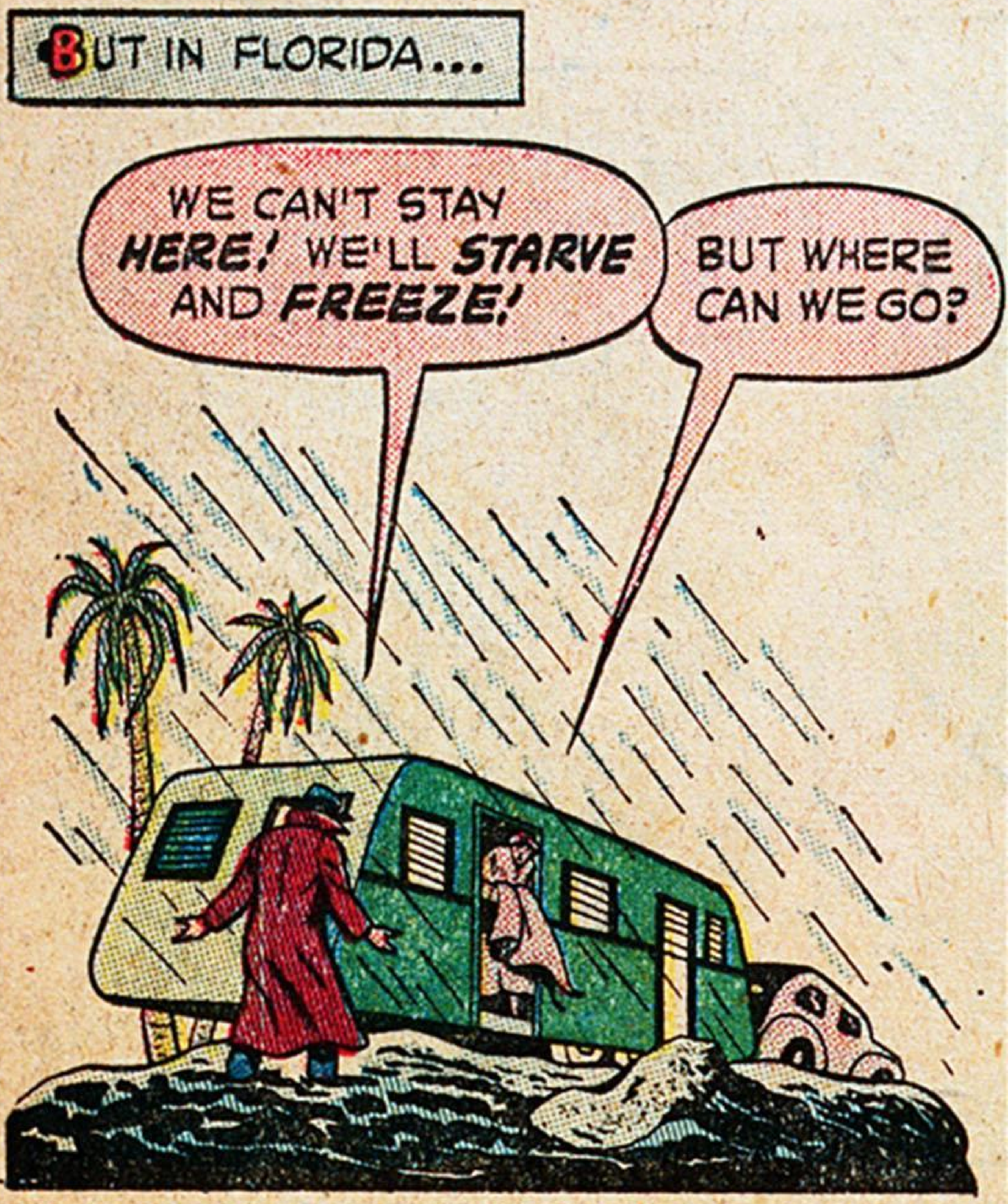
AND IN THE CLASSROOMS...


MAY DAY! WELL, CHILDREN, WE CERTAINLY WON'T HAVE ANY MAYPOLE ***THIS*** YEAR!
SLEDS ARE BETTER! WHO WANTS A MAY-POLE?

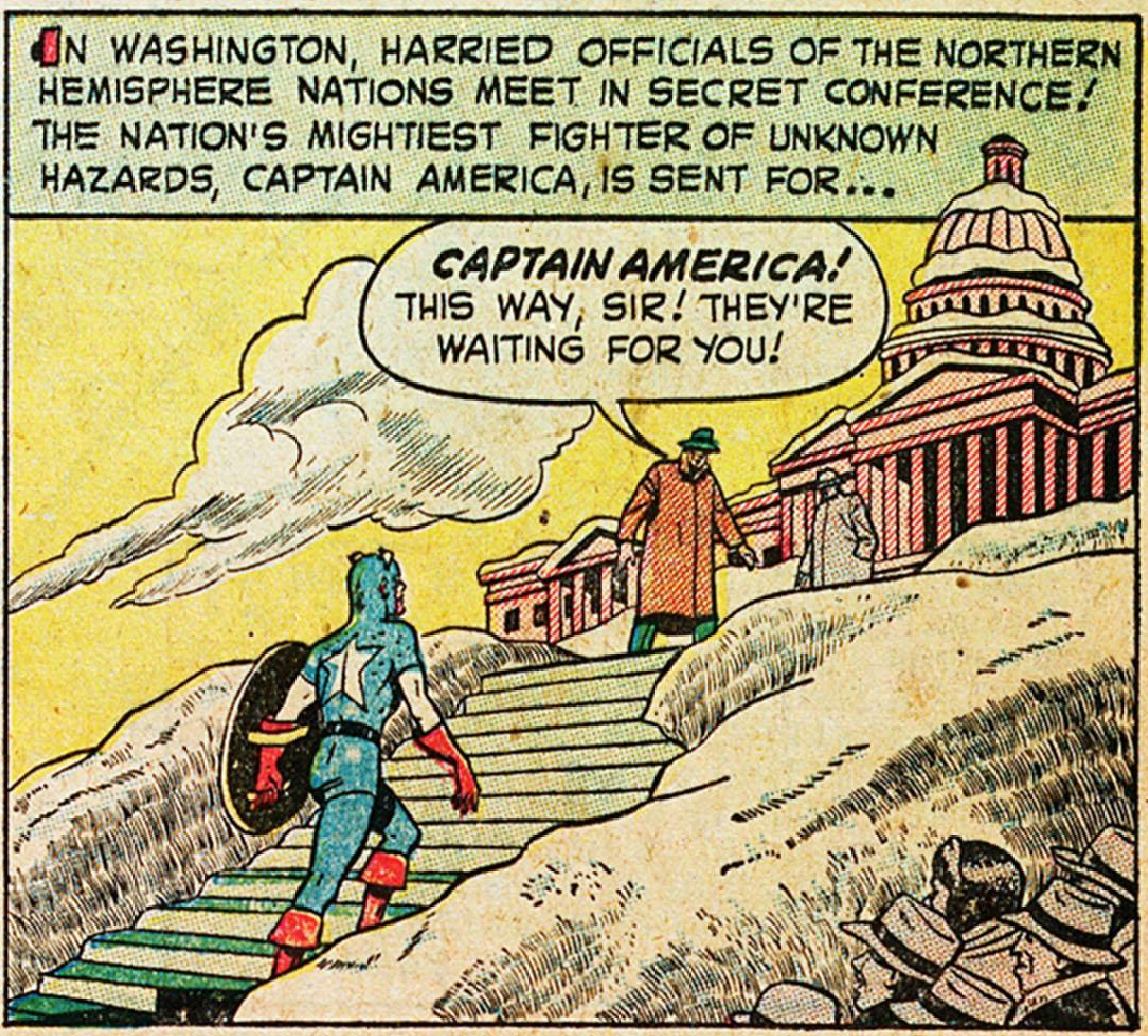

WINTER IS BACK AGAIN IN FULL FORCE! ON JUNE 2, NEW YORK CITY HAS THE WORST SNOWSTORM IN ITS HISTORY! FIRES BREAK OUT AND THE FIRE DEPARTMENT IS HELPLESS...

HELP!
WE CAN'T CONTROL IT! SEND OUT ANOTHER ALARM! THIS FIRE WILL SWEEP THE NEIGHBORHOOD!
ENGINE COMPANY 36

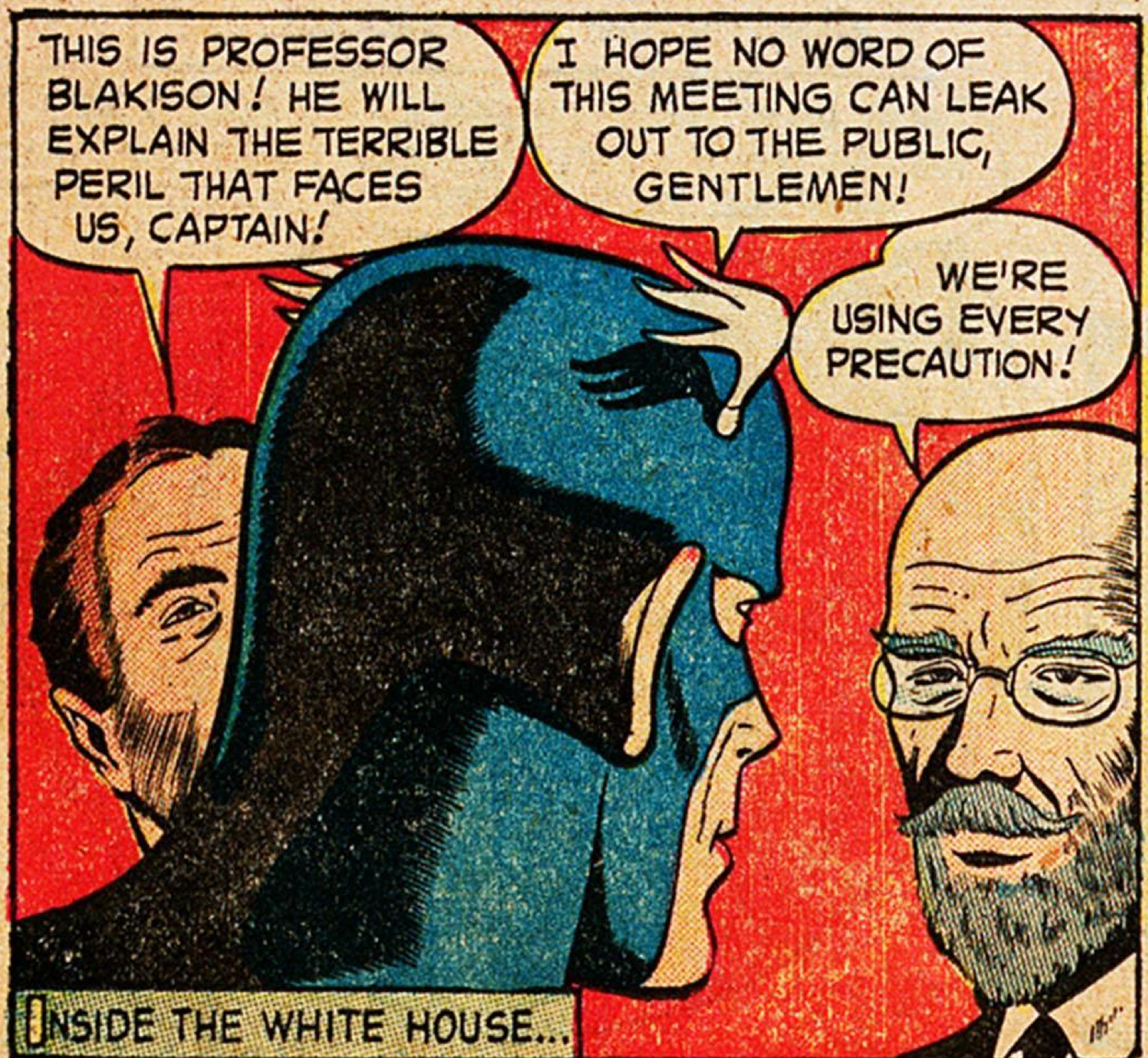

AND IN JULY, ARCTIC STORMS COME RAGING... WITH A FUEL SHORTAGE, PEOPLE ARE SLOWLY FREEZING TO DEATH! THOUSANDS TRY TO GO SOUTH...


BUT IN FLORIDA...

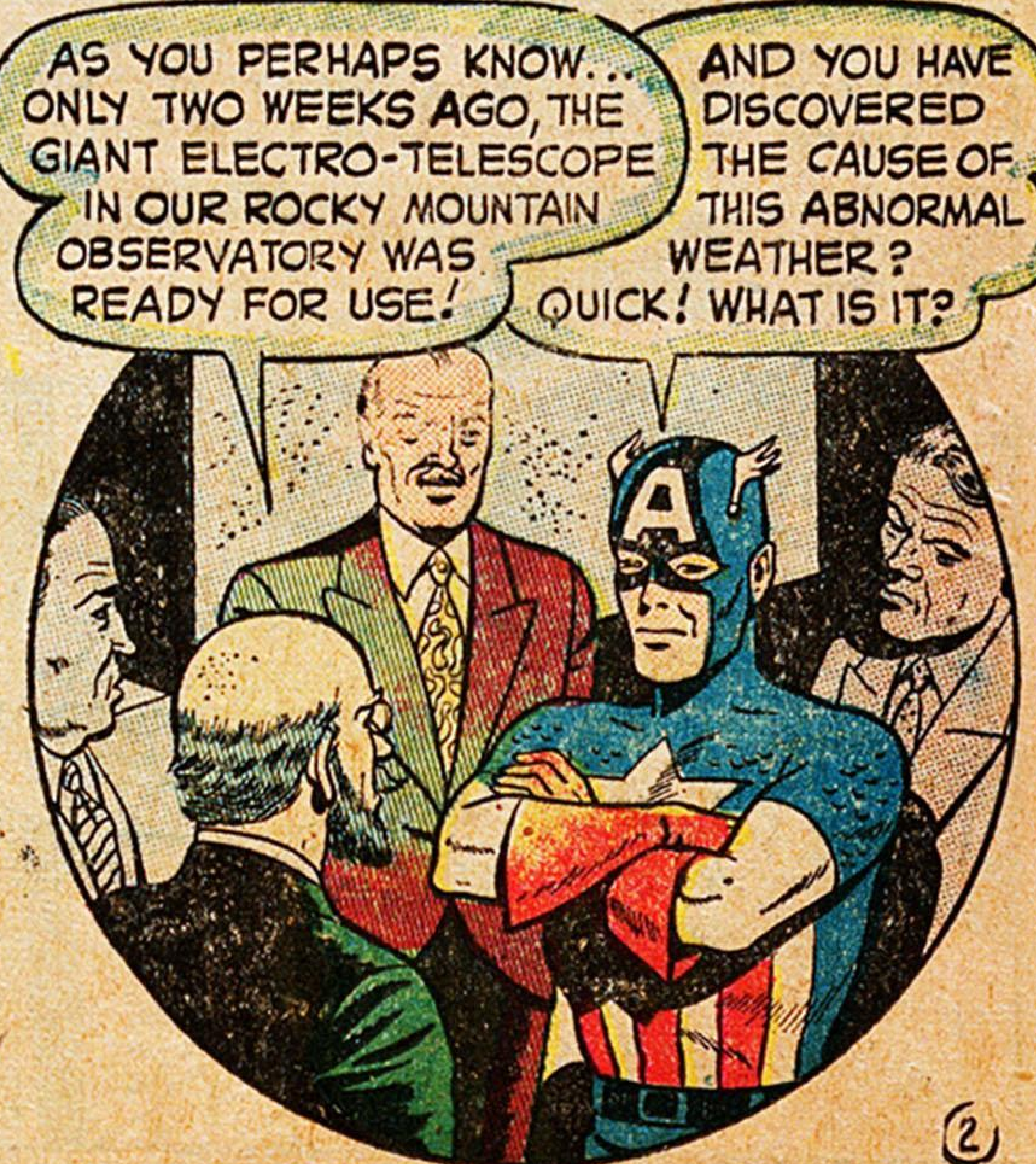
WE CAN'T STAY *HERE!* WE'LL *STARVE* AND *FREEZE!*
BUT WHERE CAN WE GO?


IN WASHINGTON, HARRIED OFFICIALS OF THE NORTHERN HEMISPHERE NATIONS MEET IN SECRET CONFERENCE! THE NATION'S MIGHTIEST FIGHTER OF UNKNOWN HAZARDS, CAPTAIN AMERICA, IS SENT FOR...

CAPTAIN AMERICA! THIS WAY, SIR! THEY'RE WAITING FOR YOU!


INSIDE THE WHITE HOUSE...

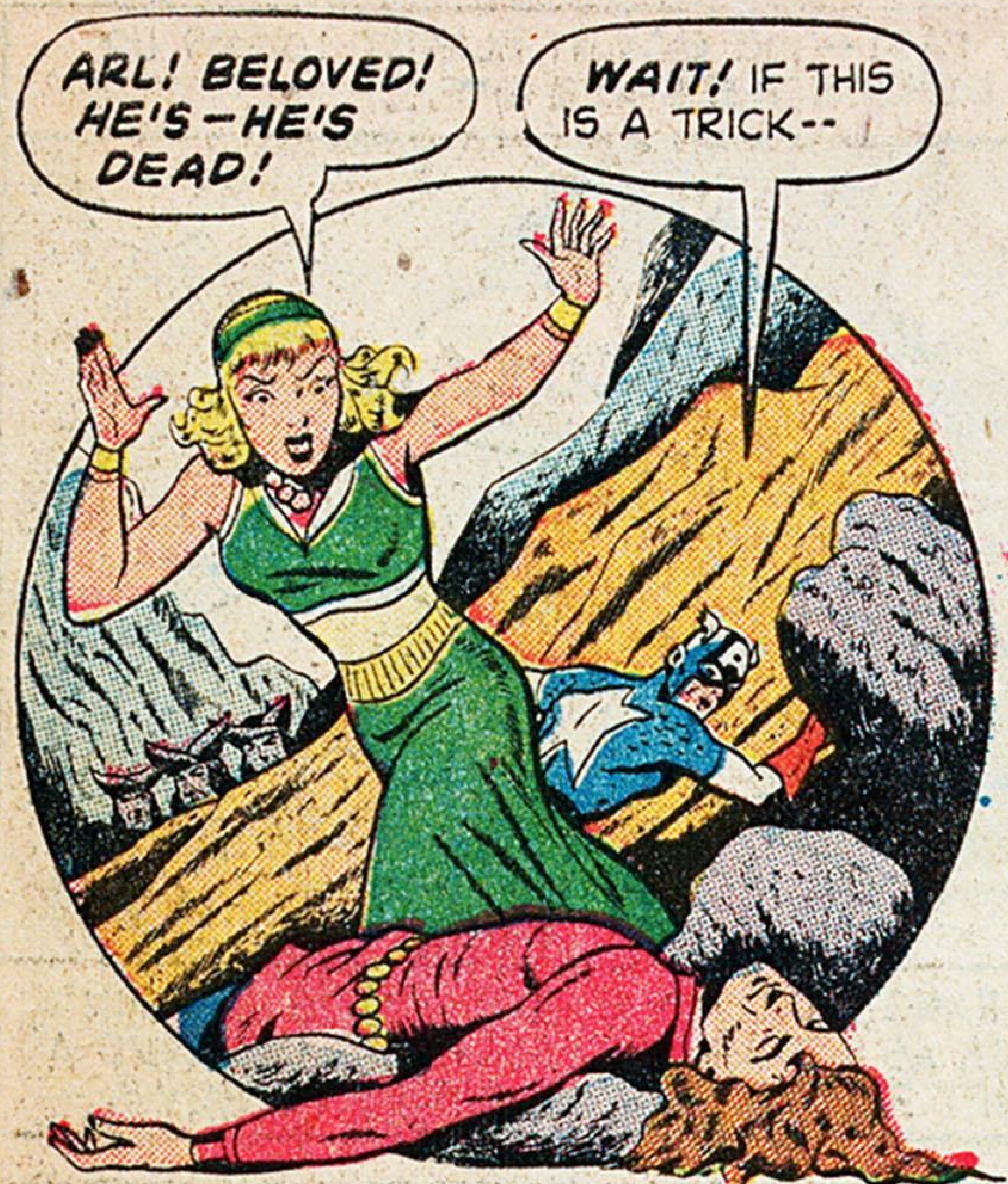
THIS IS PROFESSOR BLAKISON! HE WILL EXPLAIN THE TERRIBLE PERIL THAT FACES US, CAPTAIN!
I HOPE NO WORD OF THIS MEETING CAN LEAK OUT TO THE PUBLIC, GENTLEMEN!
WE'RE USING EVERY PRECAUTION!

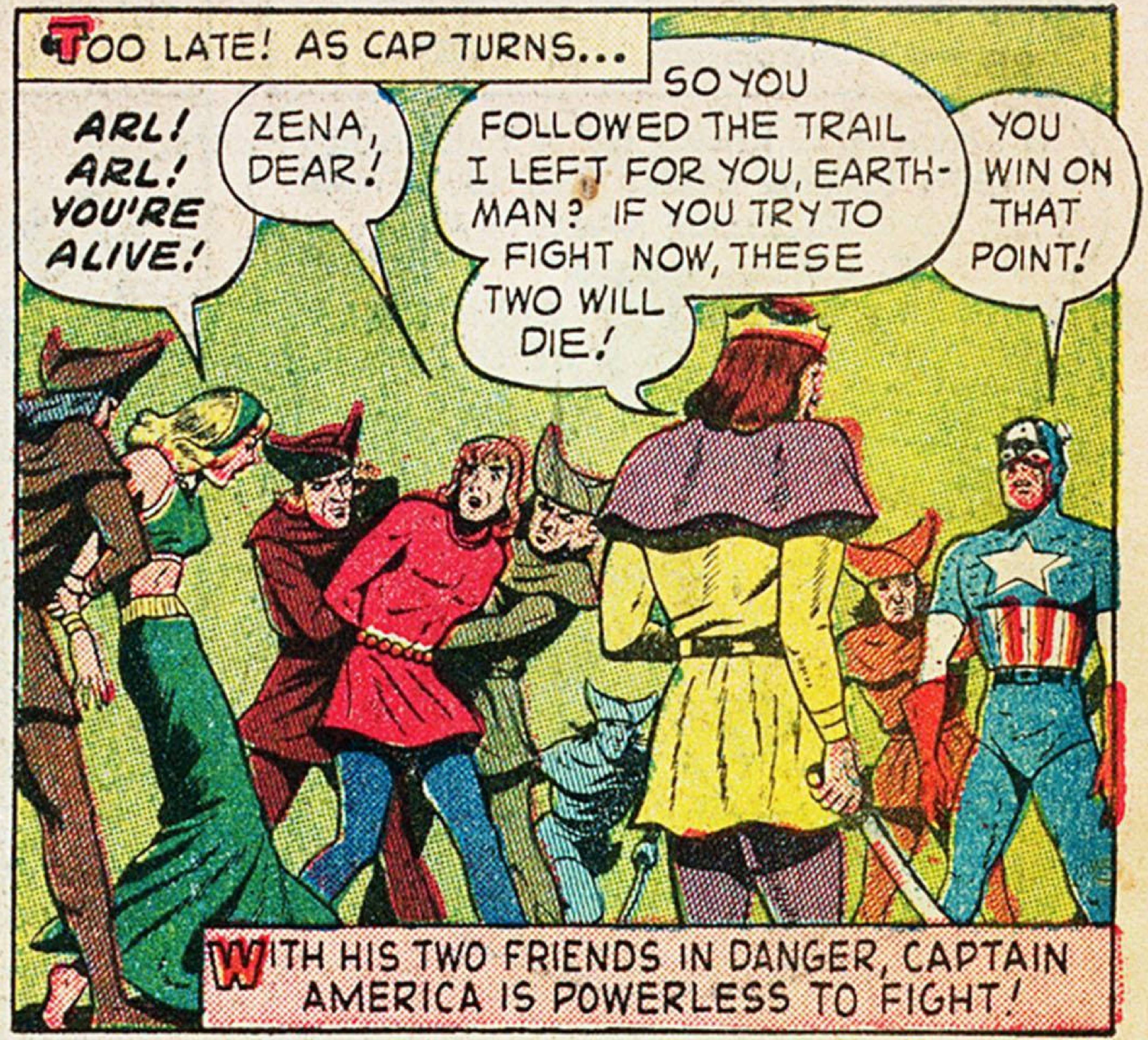

AS YOU PERHAPS KNOW... ONLY TWO WEEKS AGO, THE GIANT ELECTRO-TELESCOPE IN OUR ROCKY MOUNTAIN OBSERVATORY WAS READY FOR USE!
AND YOU HAVE DISCOVERED THE CAUSE OF THIS ABNORMAL WEATHER? QUICK! WHAT IS IT?

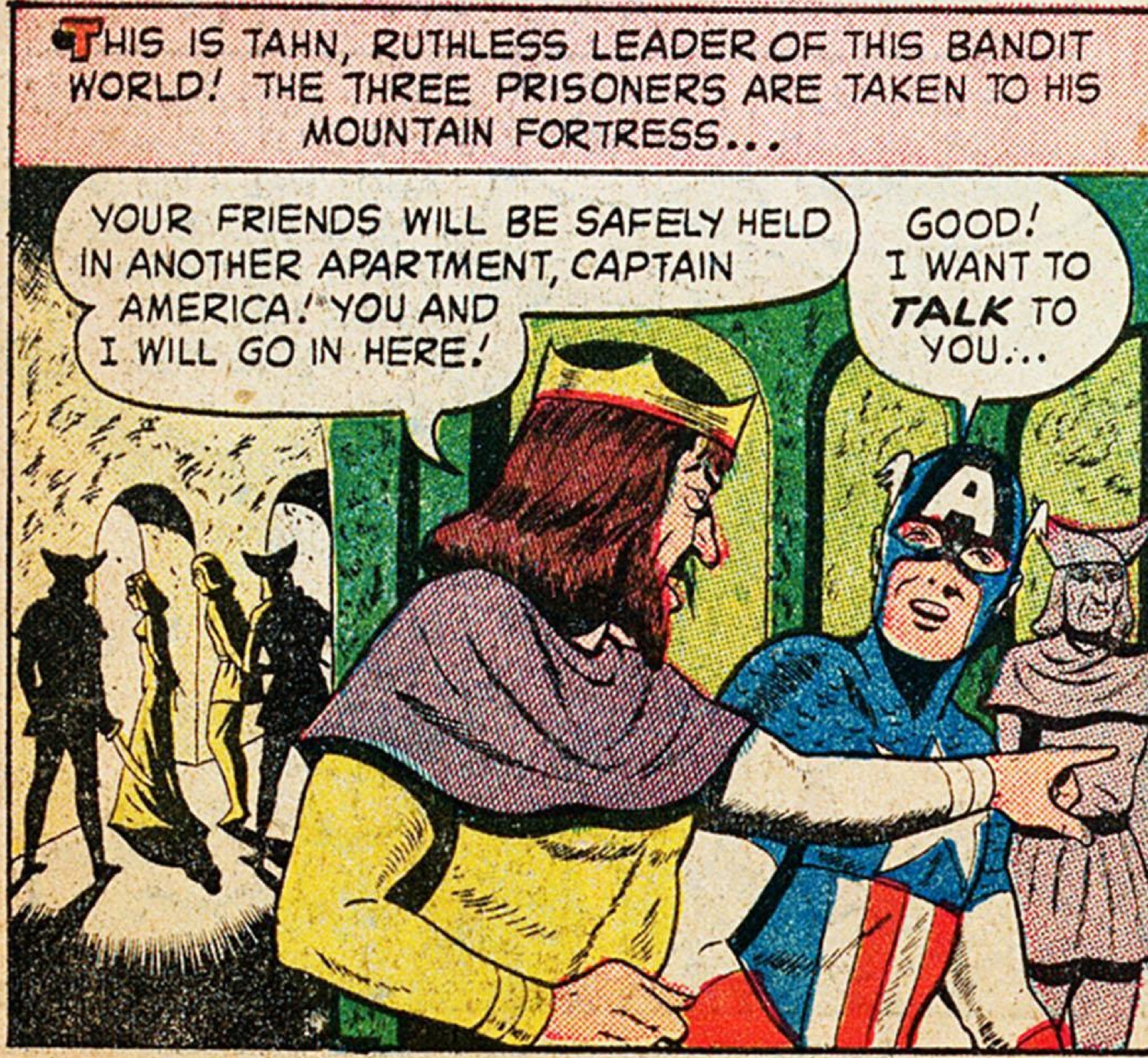
THE PROFESSOR TELLS FEARLESS CAPTAIN AMERICA OF THE HORRIBLE PHENOMENA!
A NEW WORLD HAS COME INTO BEING -- A BANDIT WORLD WHICH CONTROLS ITS OWN ORBIT! IT'S ATTACKING US WITH A GRAVITY RAY WHICH IS CHANGING THE ORBIT OF THE EARTH!
AND SO CAP LEARNS WHY THE COLD WEATHER HAS STRUCK THE EARTH..
THEY WILL WRECK OUR CIVILIZATION! THEY ARE UNDOUBTEDLY PREPARED TO INVADE US!
YES!
WE ARE TRYING TO BUILD A SPACE SHIP! CAPTAIN AMERICA, YOU MUST GO TO THIS BANDIT WORLD AND DO YOUR BEST TO SAVE US!
I WILL!
BUT THE EARTH SPACE SHIP IS NOT YET BUILT! AND THE CRIME FIGHTER FINDS WAITING DIFFICULT...
OUR SHIP MAY NOT BE READY FOR MONTHS! EVERY DAY CONDITIONS ARE WORSE! HEY! WHAT'S THAT?
A SPACE SHIP! HERE ON EARTH!
AS CAP APPROACHES THE SHIP A GROUP OF STRANGELY GARBED MEN EMERGE AND...
A GRAVITY RAY! IT'S PULLING... ME...
CAPTAIN AMERICA'S MIGHTY STRENGTH IS POWERLESS AGAINST THE FORCEFUL RAY!
THEN THE WEIRD FORCE BECOMES REPELLENT...
OOF!
...AND THRUSTS HIM TO THE GROUND...
FOR A MOMENT CAP IS HELPLESS AS THE MYSTERIOUS VIBRATIONS BUFFET HIM!

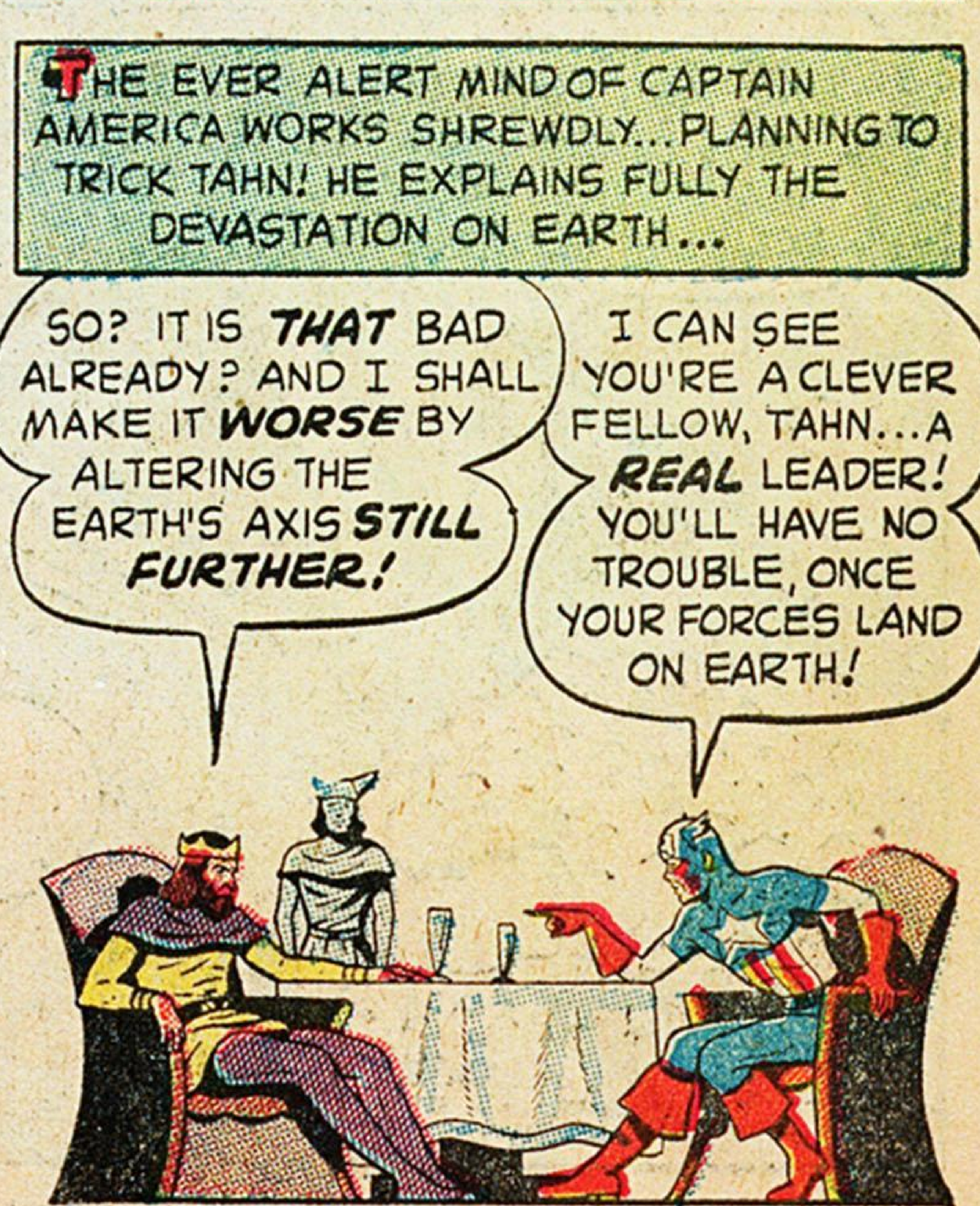
BUT CAPTAIN AMERICA RETALIATES! EMPLOYING A BIT OF TRICKERY, HE HURLS HIMSELF INTO A SNOWDRIFT!
THEY THINK THEY'VE KNOCKED ME OUT! THIS SHOULD WORK!
IT DOESN'T PAY TO GET SO CLOSE TO ME, DOES IT?
OOF!
AND YOU'RE THE LAST!
YEEOWWW!
AS THE VICTORIOUS CAP INVESTIGATES THE STRANGE SPACE SHIP OF THE INVADERS...
OH-H!
A GIRL!
A MOMENT LATER, WITHIN THE STRANGE VEHICLE...
IT'S SO COLD OUT THERE! THANK YOU!
YOU SPEAK ENGLISH! SAY, YOU'RE HURT!
I AM ZENA! WE CRASHED AS WE LANDED! BUT I'M BETTER NOW! I-I CAME HERE TO WARN YOUR EARTH--TO TRY AND HELP YOU! I STOWED AWAY ON THIS SHIP!
SHE TELLS AN AMAZING STORY!
A GIRL FROM THE BANDIT PLANET, XELOS! AND A SPACE SHIP THAT CAN STILL FLY! IT IS CAP'S CHANCE! WITH ZENA AT THE CONTROLS, PRESENTLY THEY ARE RISING!
THEY CAME TO SEE THE WRECKAGE THEY HAD CAUSED! ON A FORMER TRIP AN EARTH-MAN WAS CAUGHT! HE TAUGHT THEM YOUR LANGUAGE--THEN THEY KILLED HIM!

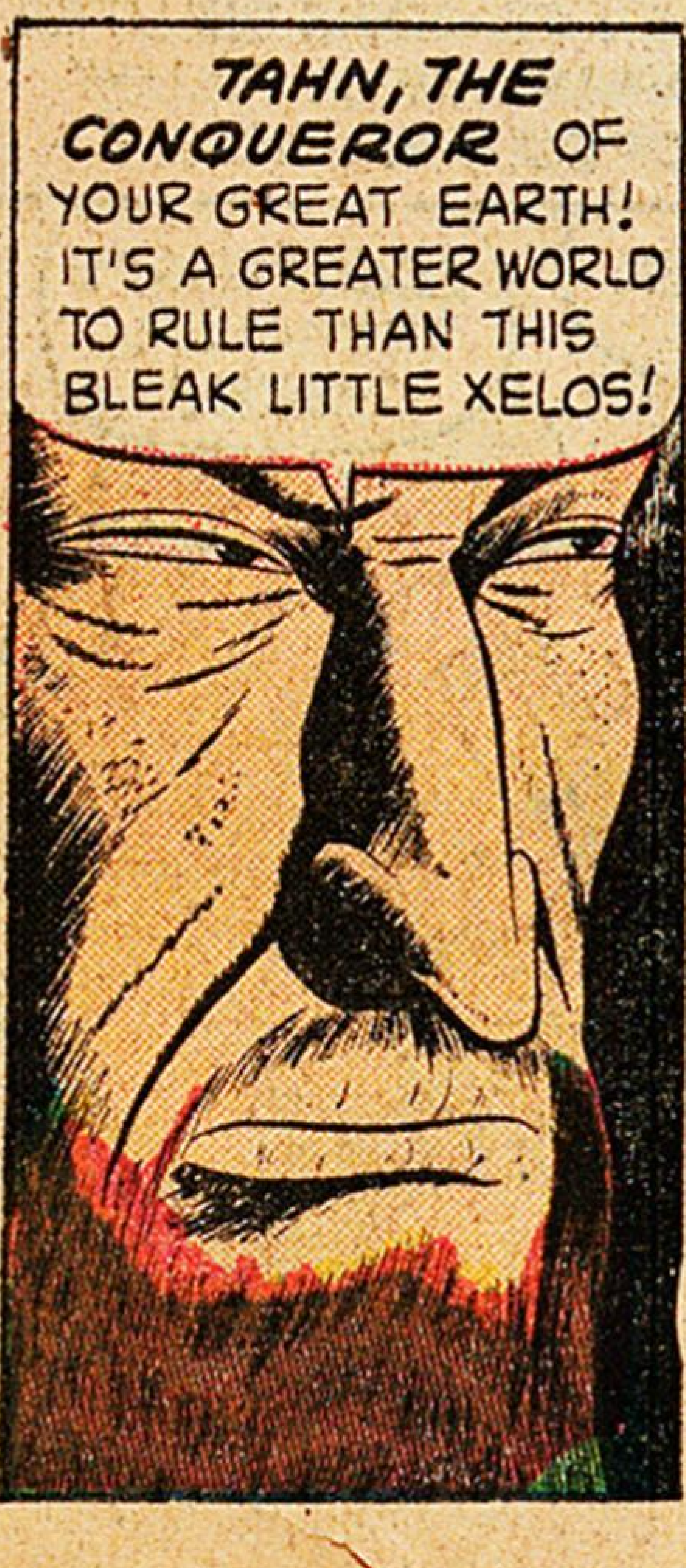
DURING THE LONG VOYAGE INTO SPACE, THE GIRL COMPLETES HER STORY...
MY WORLD IS RULED BY A VILLAINOUS PERSON NAMED TAHN! THE YOUNG MAN I AM TO MARRY-- HIS NAME IS ARL-- SHOULD HAVE BEEN THE RULER! NOW HE'S JUST A FUGITIVE!
WHEN WE LAND, WE'LL JOIN HIM!
THEN AT LAST-- THE BANDIT PLANET LOOMS UP BEFORE THE SPACE SHIP...
XELOS!
WHAT STRANGE, UNKNOWN FATE AWAITS CAPTAIN AMERICA AS HE RUSHES PELL-MELL TOWARD A PLANET FAIRLY ERUPTING WITH MYSTERY?
ARL AND HIS FEW LOYAL MEN ARE THERE IN THE NORTHERN MOUNTAINS!
BUT WHEN ZENA AND CAP FINALLY LAND...
IT'S ZENA! ZENA AND AN EARTHMAN!
WHERE IS ARL?
HE -- HE'S MISSING! SINCE A LITTLE WHILE AGO! WHEN WE SAW YOUR SHIP COME DOWN, WE LOOKED FOR HIM... BUT HE'S GONE!
THE SHARP EYES OF CAPTAIN AMERICA FIND SOMETHING ON THE GROUND...
HERE'S A STONE ORNAMENT-- LIKE A COLORED BEAD! WAS ARL WEARING SOMETHING LIKE YOU HAVE AROUND YOUR NECK?
YES, HE WAS!
THE BEADS FROM HIS NECKLACE! THERE'S ANOTHER FURTHER ON--LIKE A TRAIL TO GUIDE US!
WITH ARL'S MEN GUARDING THE LITTLE SPACE SHIP, CAP AND ZENA FOLLOW THE TRAIL OF COLORED STONES!
HERE'S ANOTHER ONE, ZENA!
LOOK! WHAT'S THAT OVER THERE?

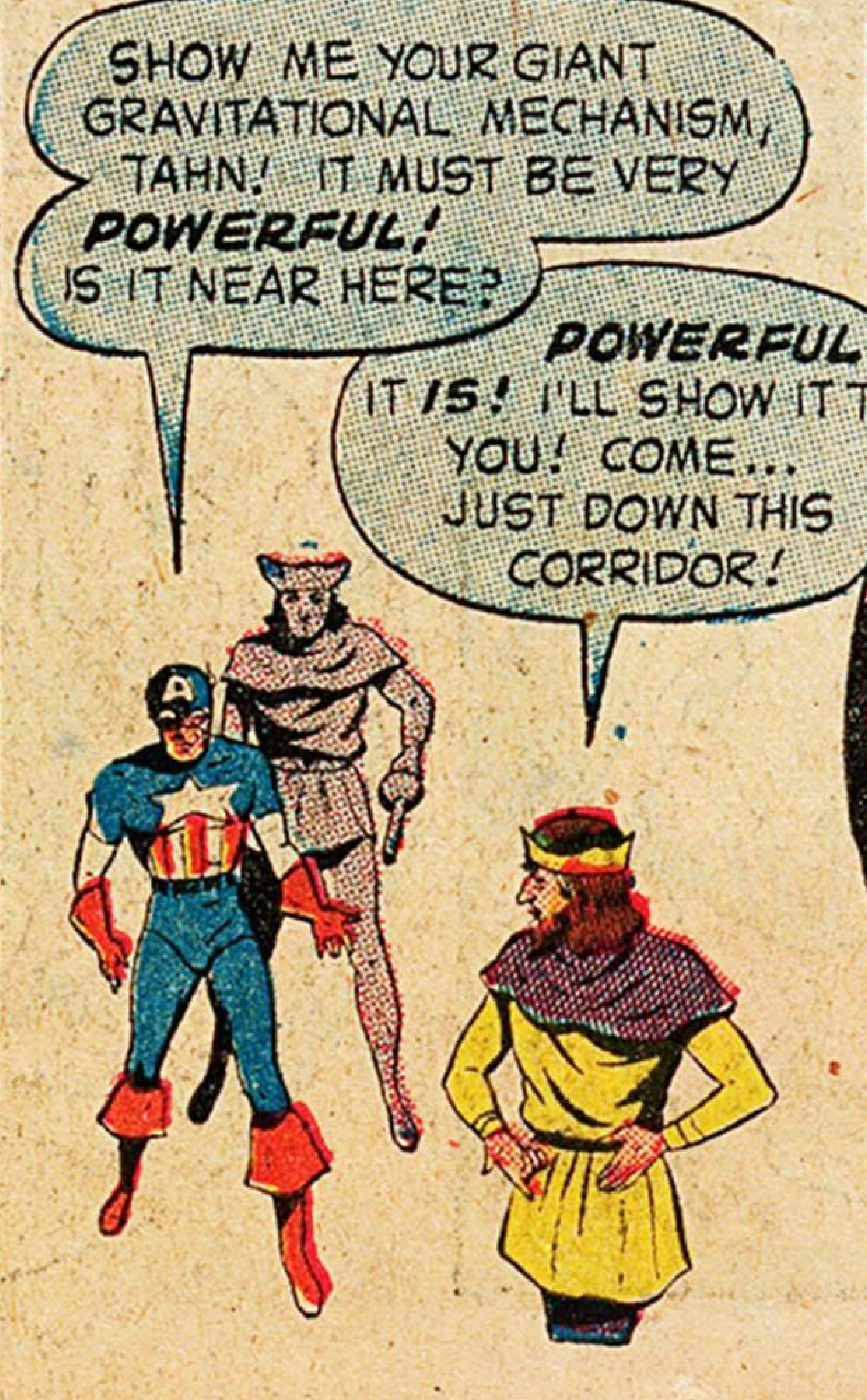

ARL! BELOVED! HE'S—HE'S DEAD!
WAIT! IF THIS IS A TRICK--

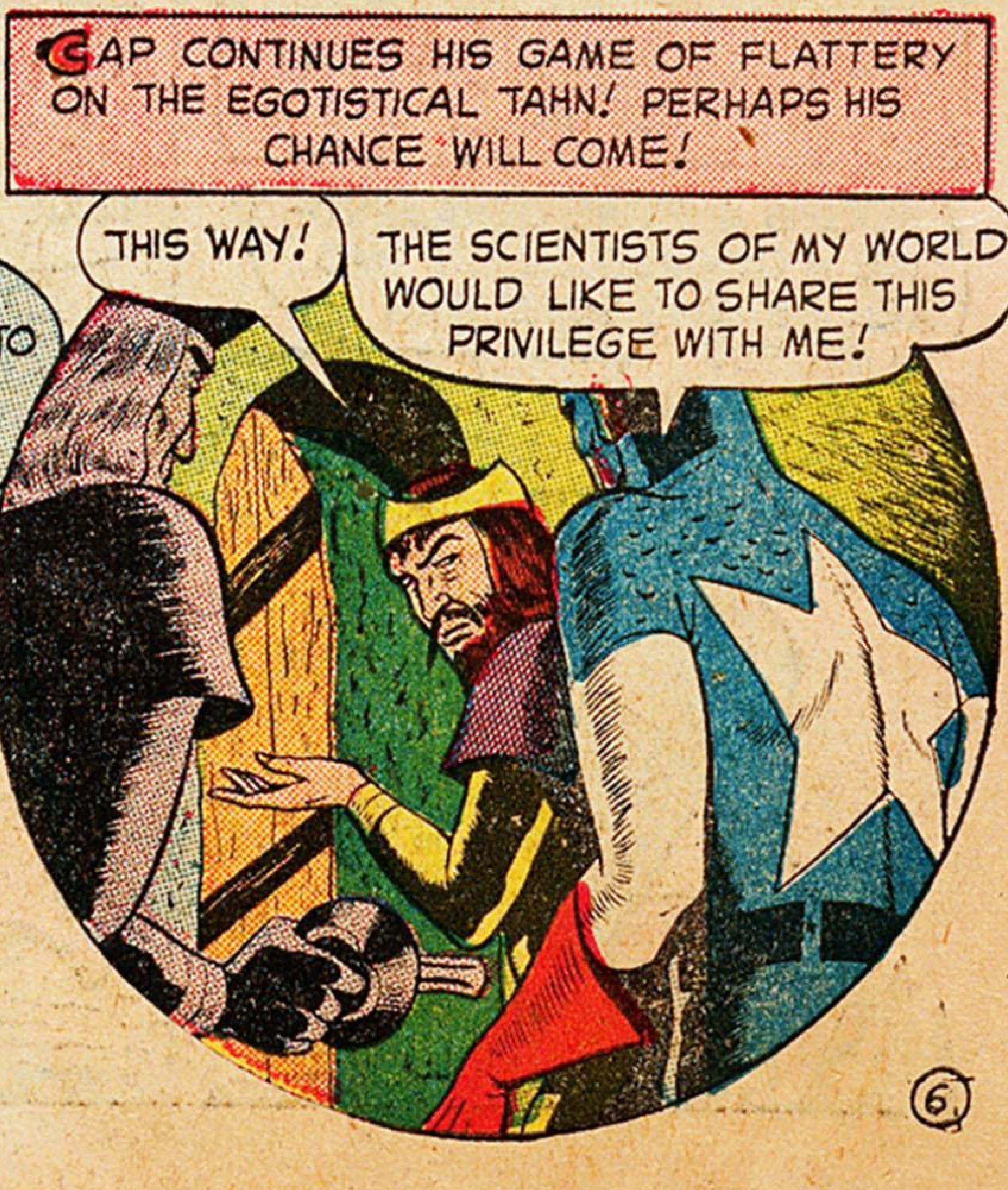

TOO LATE! AS CAP TURNS...
ARL! ARL! YOU'RE ALIVE!
ZENA, DEAR!
SO YOU FOLLOWED THE TRAIL I LEFT FOR YOU, EARTH-MAN? IF YOU TRY TO FIGHT NOW, THESE TWO WILL DIE!
YOU WIN ON THAT POINT!
WITH HIS TWO FRIENDS IN DANGER, CAPTAIN AMERICA IS POWERLESS TO FIGHT!


THIS IS TAHN, RUTHLESS LEADER OF THIS BANDIT WORLD! THE THREE PRISONERS ARE TAKEN TO HIS MOUNTAIN FORTRESS...
YOUR FRIENDS WILL BE SAFELY HELD IN ANOTHER APARTMENT, CAPTAIN AMERICA! YOU AND I WILL GO IN HERE!
GOOD! I WANT TO TALK TO YOU...


THE EVER ALERT MIND OF CAPTAIN AMERICA WORKS SHREWDLY...PLANNING TO TRICK TAHN! HE EXPLAINS FULLY THE DEVASTATION ON EARTH...
SO? IT IS THAT BAD ALREADY? AND I SHALL MAKE IT WORSE BY ALTERING THE EARTH'S AXIS STILL FURTHER!
I CAN SEE YOU'RE A CLEVER FELLOW, TAHN...A REAL LEADER! YOU'LL HAVE NO TROUBLE, ONCE YOUR FORCES LAND ON EARTH!

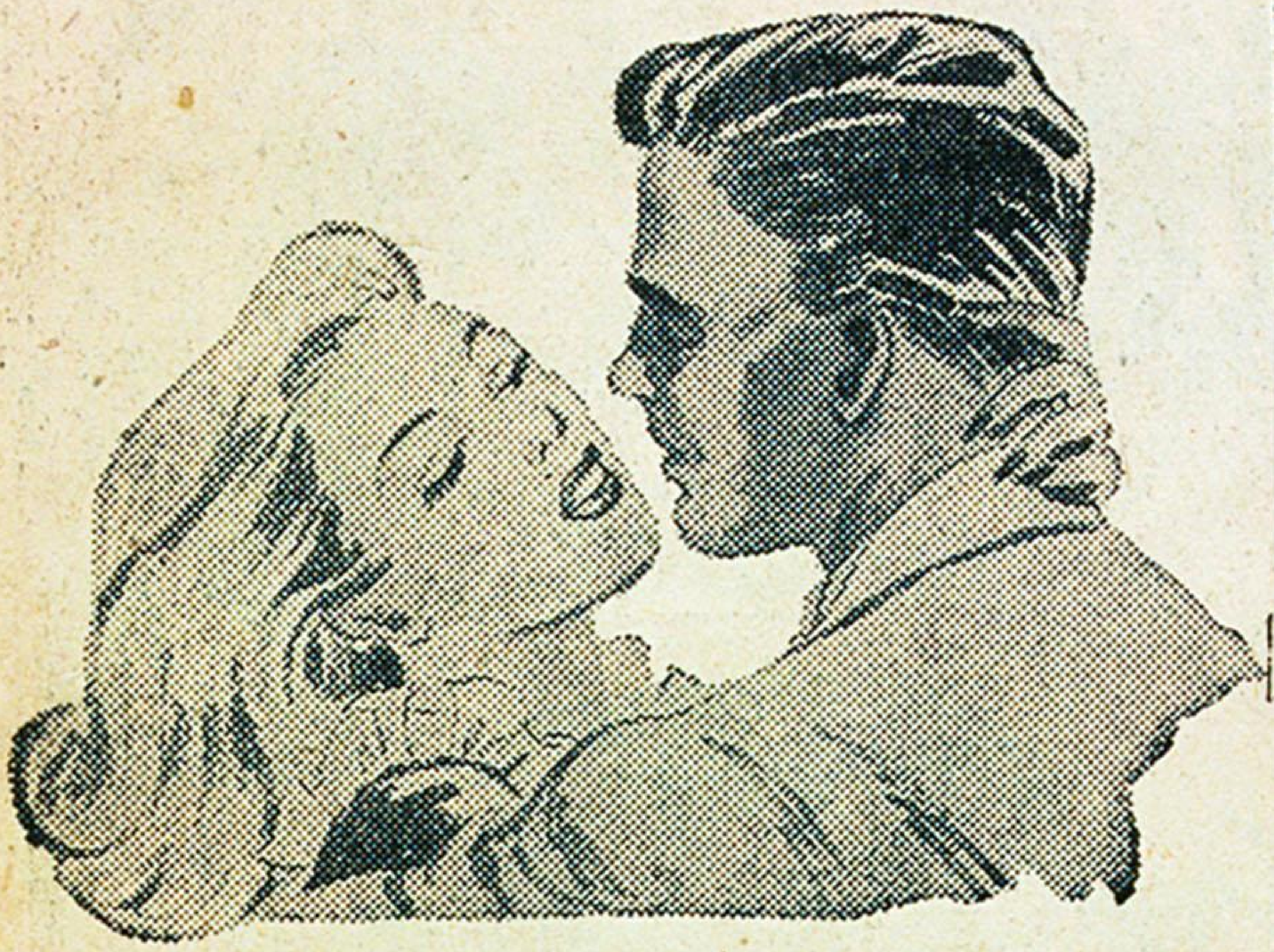

TAHN, THE CONQUEROR OF YOUR GREAT EARTH! IT'S A GREATER WORLD TO RULE THAN THIS BLEAK LITTLE XELOS!


SHOW ME YOUR GIANT GRAVITATIONAL MECHANISM, TAHN! IT MUST BE VERY POWERFUL! IS IT NEAR HERE?
POWERFUL IT IS! I'LL SHOW IT TO YOU! COME... JUST DOWN THIS CORRIDOR!


CAP CONTINUES HIS GAME OF FLATTERY ON THE EGOTISTICAL TAHN! PERHAPS HIS CHANCE WILL COME!
THIS WAY!
THE SCIENTISTS OF MY WORLD WOULD LIKE TO SHARE THIS PRIVILEGE WITH ME!

WITH THAT GRAVITY FORCE, XELOS' ORBIT IS CONTROLLED! WE ARE NOW HEADING TOWARD EARTH... AND AT THE SAME TIME, I AM ALTERING EARTH'S AXIS!
LET'S GO DOWN THERE! THIS IS TREMENDOUSLY INTERESTING!
THE HUGE MECHANISM THAT IS IMPOVERISHING THE EARTH IS THERE BEFORE HIM! CAPTAIN AMERICA WATCHES AND WAITS FOR AN OPPORTUNITY...
AND AS THE BOASTFUL TAHN EXPLAINS THE DIAL SETTINGS OF THE INTRICATE GRAVITY MACHINE...
AND SO YOU SEE--
MY CHANCE!
HOLA!
AND NOW THE CHANCE CAPTAIN AMERICA WAITED FOR!
THANKS FOR ALL THE INFORMATION!
UGH!
WITH A LEAP, CAP SMASHES THE EARTH'S DIAL SETTINGS, RELEASING THE EARTH! BUT SUDDENLY...
THAT DOES IT! WHA--?
TRICKERY! WHY, YOU--
BUT THE EYES OF TAHN TURN TO THE IRREVOCABLY WRECKED MACHINE AS HE MOMENTARILY FORGETS HIS PRISONER...
THEY'RE SMASHED! AND XELOS IS HEADING FOR THE SUN! NOTHING CAN STOP IT NOW! MY WORLD IS DOOMED!
GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE... BUT QUICK!
DOOMED LITTLE BANDIT WORLD! LIKE A TRAIL OF BURNING GUNPOWDER, THE NEWS SPREADS! SWIFTLY CAP FIGHTS HIS WAY THROUGH THE TURMOIL TO RELEASE ZENA AND ARL...
DOOMED! THE END OF MY WORLD!
WE'LL HAVE TO FIGHT OUR WAY BACK TO THAT SPACE SHIP!
A FEW MOMENTS LATER, WITH THE FREED ZENA AND ARL...
TAHN'S SPACE SHIPS ARE NOT BUILT YET! HE'LL PROBABLY RUSH FOR OURS!
WE'VE GOT TO GET THERE FIRST!

JUST IN TIME! ARL'S LITTLE BAND OF LOYAL FOLLOWERS ARE DEFENDING THE SHIP!
THERE THEY COME! ARL! ARL!
WE'LL MAKE IT!
WE'RE ALL HERE!
GET TO THE CONTROLS! LIFT US QUICKLY!
OH!
THE FOLLOWERS OF ARL FIGHT THEIR WAY INSIDE THE SHIP, JUST AS TAHN AND HIS ARMY REACH THE SHIP!
ONE LAST DESPERATE ATTEMPT... THE PEOPLE OF THE BANDIT WORLD CLING TO THE SHIP AS IT RISES FROM THE GROUND, BUT THEY CANNOT STAY ON!
BACK TO THE HAVEN OF EARTH! ON THE VOYAGE THE LITTLE BAND OF FUGITIVES WITNESS A GRIM CELESTIAL DRAMA!
THERE IT GOES--PULLED BY THE SUN'S GIANT ATTRACTION!
AND NOTHING CAN STOP IT!
THEN AT LAST, JUST A SMALL SILENT PUFF OF LIGHT--FIRE -- NOTHING AT ALL IN THE IMMENSITY OF THE UNIVERSE...
ZENA DEAR!
SO HORRIBLE-- THE END OF OUR LITTLE WORLD!
BUT YOU WILL BE WELCOMED IN OUR WORLD, ZENA! YOU AND ARL WILL BE HAPPY THERE!
ONCE MORE THE SUN SHINES ON EARTH, AND THE BLANKET OF SNOW VANISHES! THE DAUNTLESS CAPTAIN AMERICA BRINGS SECURITY TO OUR WORLD!
THE END



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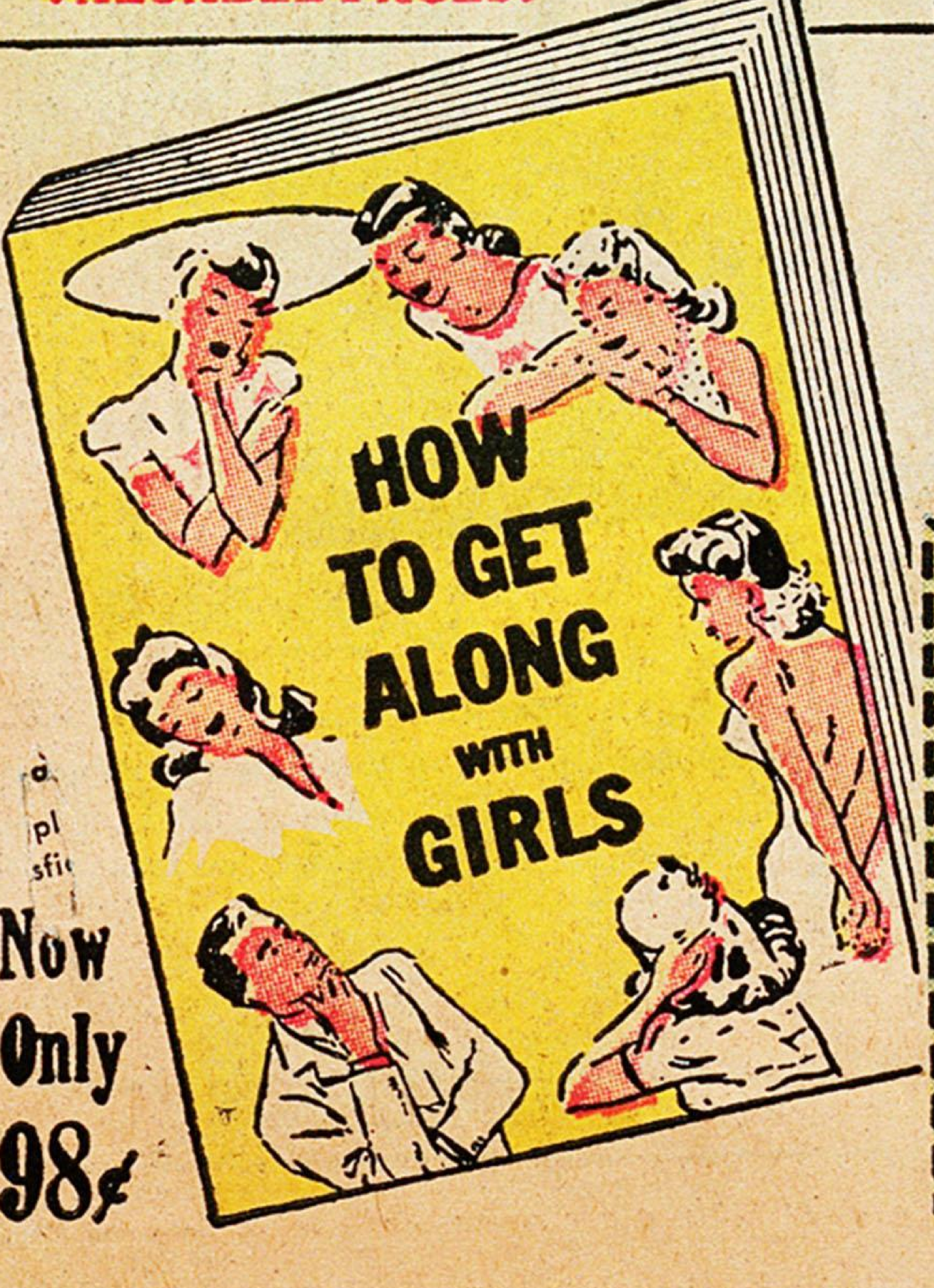
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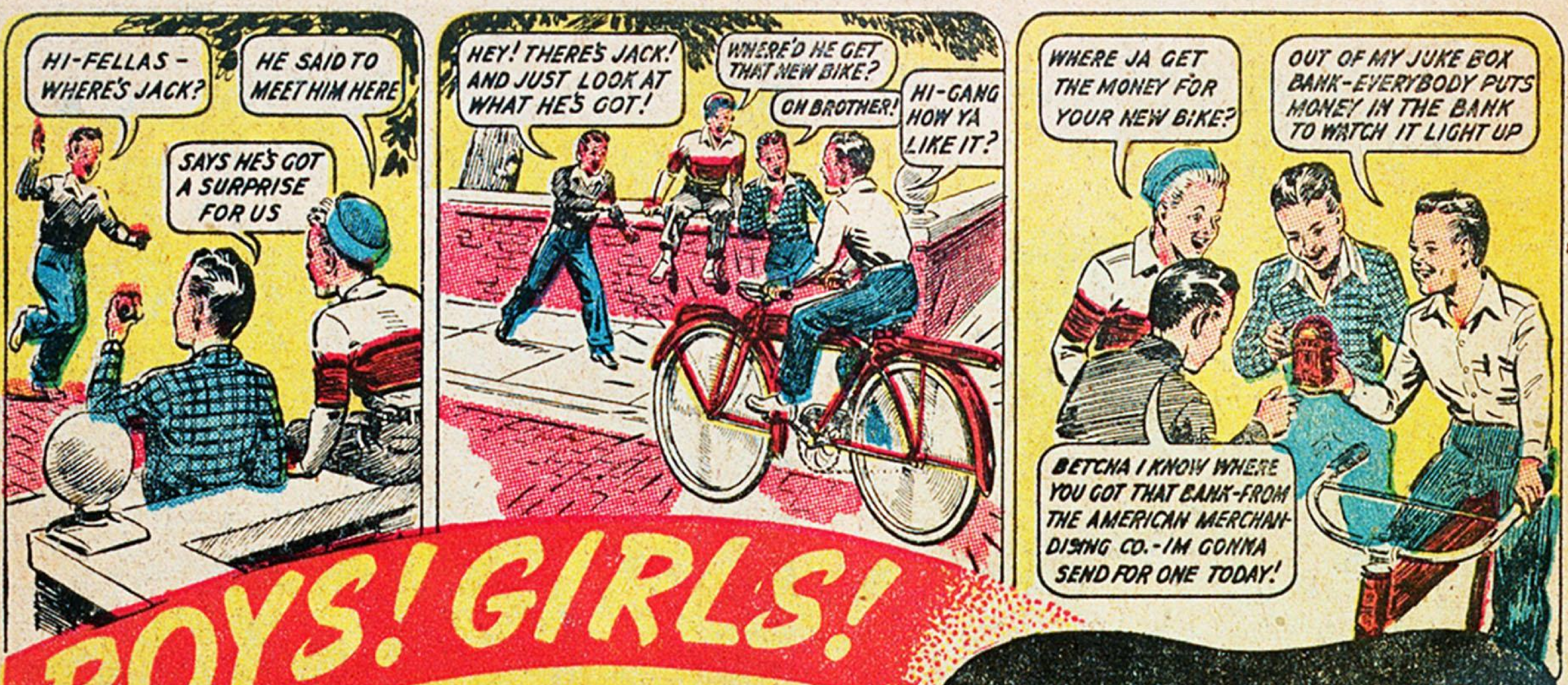
HI-FELLAS - WHERE'S JACK?
HE SAID TO MEET HIM HERE
SAYS HE'S GOT A SURPRISE FOR US
HEY! THERE'S JACK! AND JUST LOOK AT WHAT HE'S GOT!
WHERE'D HE GET THAT NEW BIKE?
OH BROTHER!
HI-GANG HOW YA LIKE IT?
WHERE JA GET THE MONEY FOR YOUR NEW BIKE?
OUT OF MY JUKE BOX BANK-EVERYBODY PUTS MONEY IN THE BANK TO WATCH IT LIGHT UP
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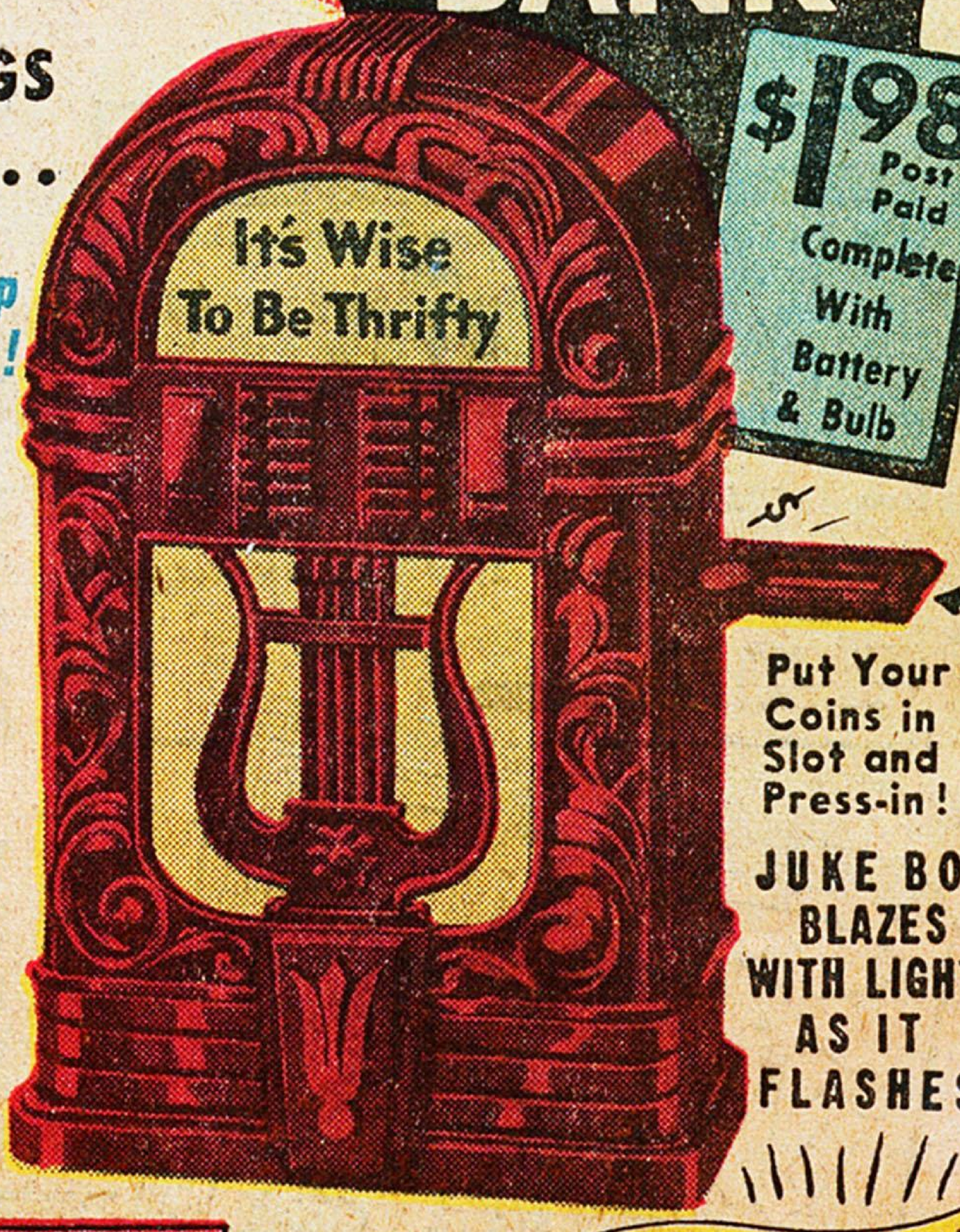
It's Wise To Be Thrifty

Put Your Coins in Slot and Press-in!

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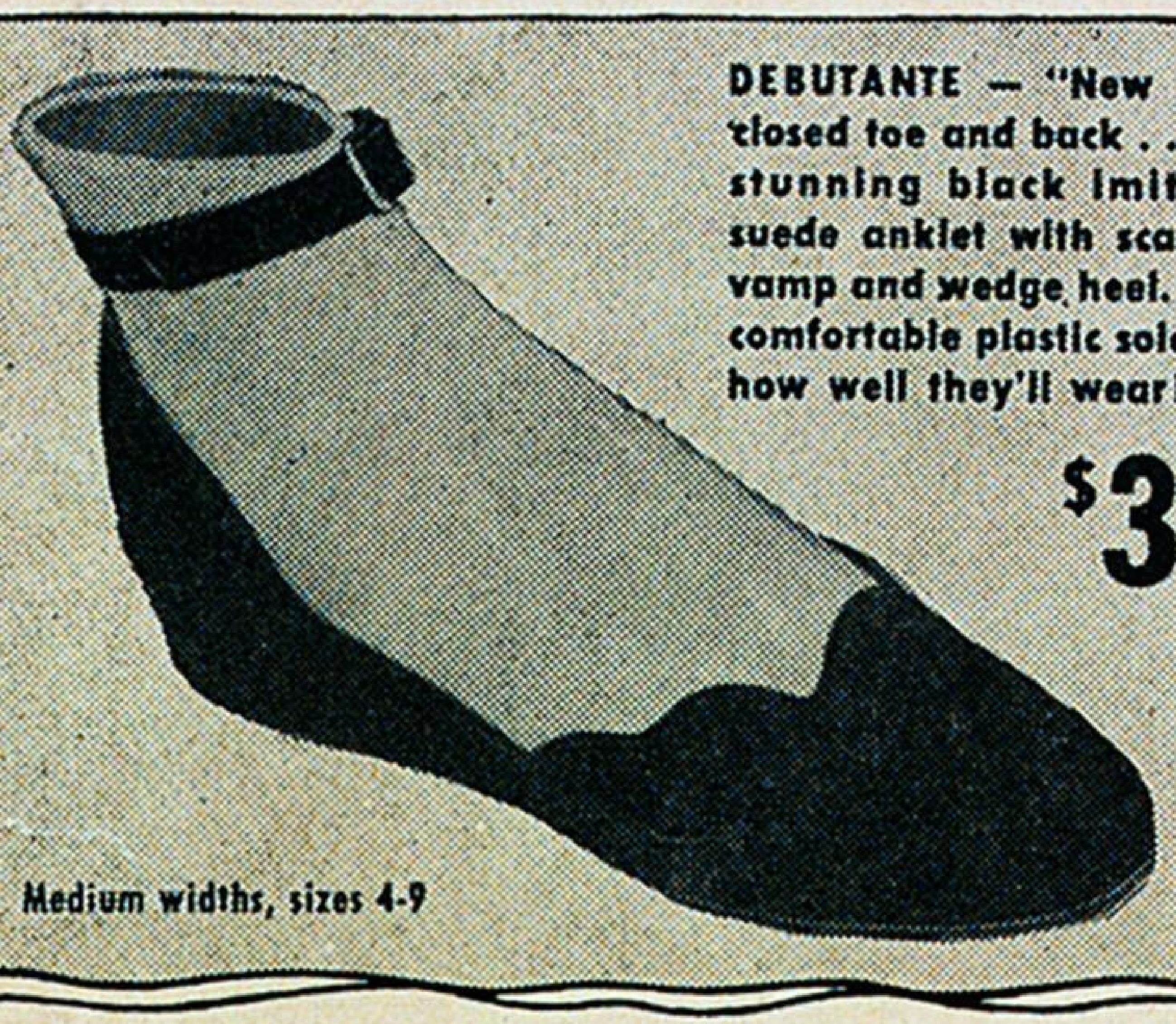

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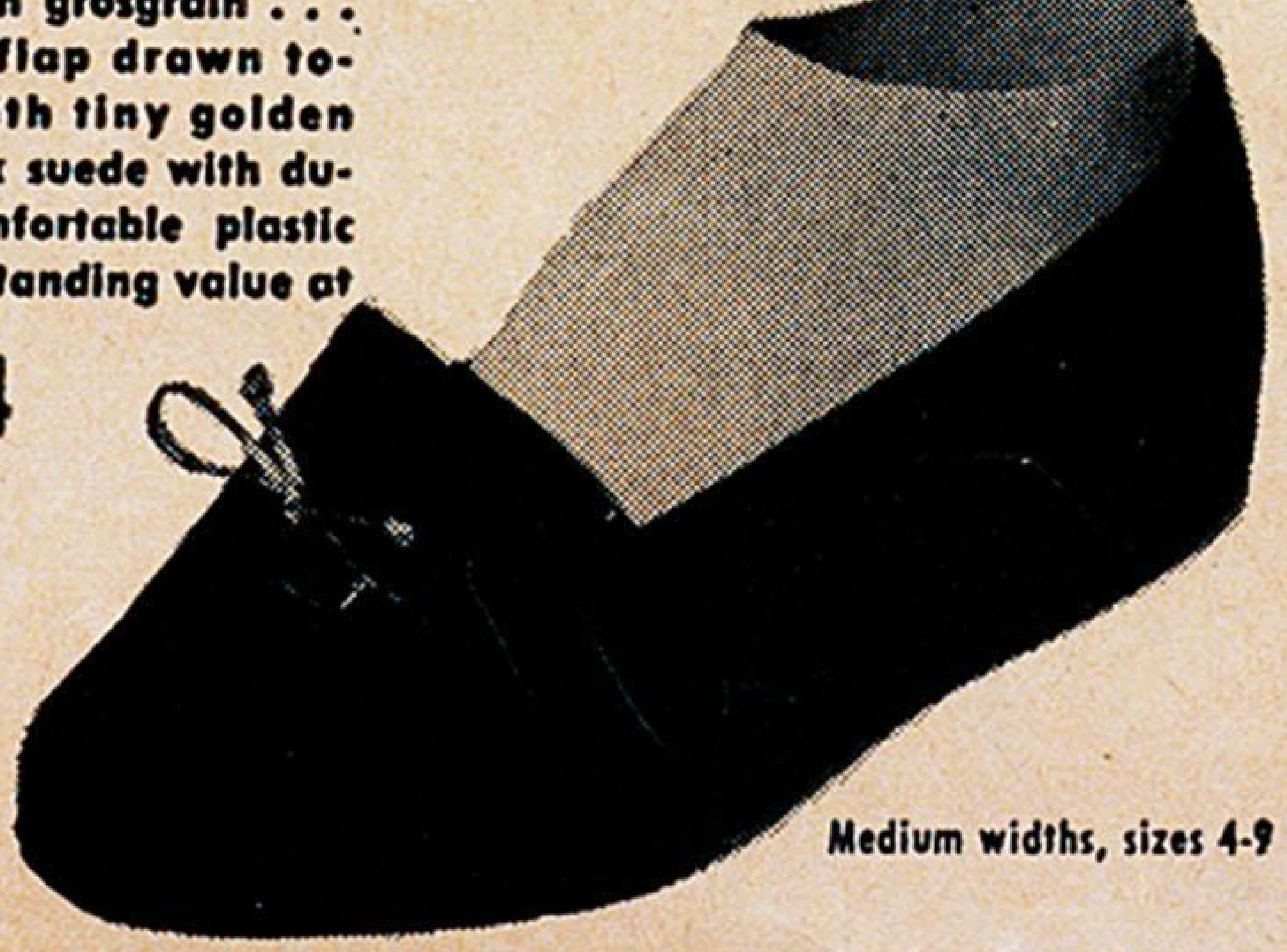

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